Trade and Industry

22 October 1976 35p

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contact points

Firms wishing to put inquiries to the Departments of Industry and Trade will find contact with the nearest Regional Office most convenient. Telephone numbers are:

Northern Region, Newcastle upon Tyne	**0632 27575**
North West Region, Manchester	**061-236 2171**
Yorkshire and Humberside Region, Leeds	**0532 443171**
East Midlands Region, Nottingham	**0602 56181**
West Midlands Region, Birmingham	**021-632 4111**
South West Region, Bristol	**0272 291071**
Eastern Region, London	**01-603 2070**
London and South Eastern Region	**01-603 2060**

Departmental Buildings in London

1 Victoria Street, SW1H 0ET **Monsanto House, Victoria Street, SW1H 0NQ**	**01-215 7877**
Abell House, John Islip Street, SW1P 4LN **Millbank Tower, Millbank, SW1P 4QU** **Thames House South, Millbank, SW1P 4QJ**	**01-211 3000**
Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, SW1P 2AG	**01-212 7676**
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, EC4M 7HU **Hillgate House, 26 Old Bailey, EC4M 7HU**	**01-248 5757**
Sunley House, 90-93 High Holborn, WC1V 6LP	**01-405 6911**
Waterloo Bridge House, Waterloo Road, SE1 8UA	**01-275 3000**
Cleland House, Page Street, SW1P 4LW	**01-222 8020**

In Scotland

Contact **The Scottish Economic Planning Department, Industrial Development Division, Alhambra House, 45 Waterloo Street, Glasgow G2 6AT**	**041-248 2855**

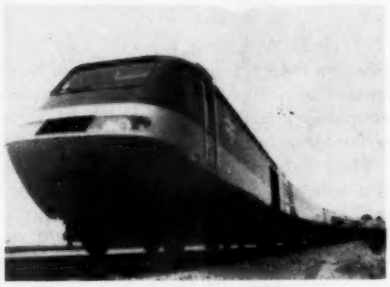
In Wales

Contact **The Welsh Office, Industry Department, Block 2, Gabalfa, Cardiff CF4 4YL**	**0222 62131**

Trade and Industry

22 October 1976

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection



This year Britain has taken the lead in two areas of passenger transport. Concorde has enabled British Airways to be way ahead in flight times to Washington and Bahrain. And now British Rail's high speed train from London to Bristol and South Wales provides the world s fastest diesel rail service. Average speed of the fastest train to Bristol is at present 92 mph. The service will be faster still when more of the track permits speeds of 125 mph.

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Editorial
Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET

Editorial inquiries		01-215 5730
Editor	Alan Williams	01-215 5653
Deputy editor	C. R. Kabraji	01-215 5654
Features and technology	Geoff Sedgwick Jennifer Clarke	01-215 5656 01-215 5074
Special features and promotion	John Bentley	01-215 5655
European community and overseas trade	Gillian Samuel Alex Mayne-Reid Geoff Heaford	01-215 5620 01-215 3016 01-215 3006
Art and pictures	Bob Priestley	01-215 3118
Circulation control	Christine Swinyard	01-215 5021

Advertisements
T. G. Scott & Son Ltd., 1 Clement's Inn, London WC2A 2ED

Senior advertisement representative Colin Beadle 01-242 6264

Subscriptions: HMSO PO Box 569, London SE1 01-928 6977 ext. 472

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The Editor regrets that due to a continuing industrial dispute within the printing industry, some material intended for this issue has been omitted or held over.

Home news

Vital for motor industry to reach production targets: Eric Varley

Danger to the motor industry – and the country as a whole – if production targets are not met, was signposted by Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, on Tuesday, 19 October. He was speaking to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders at the Motor Show banquet.

'We cannot continue for very long in a situation where the industry is structured and financed for a particular level of activity, aimed at providing a certain volume of product, but where the targets are not met,' Mr Varley said. 'The government has expressed its determination to play its role in helping to establish a substantial and competitive motor vehicle industry. The industry as a whole now has an opportunity to restore its position both in terms of market performance and profitability. It is vital that all who are engaged in the industry will work together to ensure that this opportunity does not slip.'

Mr Varley said that a situation in which overseas manufacturers took over 40 per cent of the United Kingdom domestic market, as they did in September, could not be accepted. 'It must also be a matter of concern to the whole industry and everyone who works in it – assuming, that is, they expect to continue to work in it in the years ahead. The heart of the problem is producing the goods in the necessary volumes at the right time. The message I want to impress upon the industry tonight is that the right time is now.'

The present government had made available to motor manufacturers nearly £250 million. Sir Harold Wilson had told parliament on 24 April last year that the government had decided that Britain 'must remain in the world league so far as a British-owned automobile industry is concerned.'

'This will obviously involve the commitment of substantial further public funds. Indeed significant amounts have already been committed,' Mr Varley said. 'We are now more conscious in government than at any time in the past of the need to work closely with all sectors of industry in the formulation of policies. Our relationships with the motor industry have never been closer. There is still in this country a very great fund of goodwill for the motor vehicle industry.'

The objective of the Motor Industry Tripartite Group set up at the beginning of the year was to create a framework of consultation and co-operation. In this way the problems of raising productivity and reducing the number of disputes could be approached in an agreed and realistic way through a forum bringing together leaders of both sides of industry with representatives of the government.

Turning to exports, Mr Varley said we must make great efforts to improve our performance in Europe. Already there had been some significant moves towards integration in sales and manufacturing activity between the subsidiaries of multi-national companies operating in this country and elsewhere in the EEC. These moves he welcomed. They helped in achieving the economies of scale and in utilising a European-wide distribution network to the advantage of British firms. The performance of the motor vehicle components industry, especially its export performance, was outstandingly good.

The number of stoppages in British industry as a whole had been reduced to the lowest level for 20 years. In the car industry greater job security and fewer lay-offs could only come as a result of fewer disputes – not more.

Steps to improve Anglo-Japanese trade

Easing of restrictions by the Japanese government to promote a greater flow of British imports is to be urged by the Keidanren – Japan's counterpart to the Confederation of British Industry. And Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Industry, is to visit Japan next spring to see what progress has been made in improving the Anglo-Japanese trade balance.

These announcements came at the end of the visit to the UK of the Keidanren this week.

The Keidanren held a two-day conference with the Confederation of British Industry followed by talks with the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr Dell met the Japanese businessmen at the beginning of their visit (see page 222).

During the Keidanren-CBI talks, representatives of a number of sectors of British industry expressed views on ways in which bilateral trade could be brought more into balance.

Communique

These sectors, says the joint Keidanren-CBI communique, included components, automobiles, electronics, aeronautical, shipbuilding, ball bearings, whisky and tobacco.

Both sides observed that the imposition of general import restraint would be detrimental to the two countries and the growth of international trade.

Eric Varley at BSC Scunthorpe works

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry (centre) at British Steel Corporation's Scunthorpe works. Mr Varley saw the Anchor project which has accounted for £230 million of the £503 million investment at Scunthorpe since nationalisation. Mr Varley was conducted around the works by Trevor Hill, manager, steelmaking (right).

Alan Williams visits footwear industry

Alan Williams, Minister of State, Department of Industry, visited the Shoe and Allied Trades Research Association in Kettering last Friday. He is seen with Brian Blackwell, head of the materials assessment department, inspecting a worn shoe to find the causes of failure. Mr Williams, who has responsibility for the private manufacturing industries, also visited two footwear manufacturing firms in the area.

OFT agreement with building societies on endowment mortgages

New arrangements about endowment mortgages have been agreed between the Office of Fair Trading and the Building Societies' Association, it was revealed on 19 October by Frank Glaves-Smith, Deputy Director-General of the OFT. The new arrangements, which are voluntary, should ensure that applicants can use suitable existing endowment policies as security for endowment mortgages or can use the life insurance companies of their own choice provided that certain safeguards are met. The agreement should also provide a check on the pressures which may have been used by some branches of building societies to sell the endowment method of repayment or the policies of particular companies. OFT are also discussing ways of ensuring that inflation does not lead to mortgaged properties being under-insured. Arrangements for simultaneous structural surveys and valuations are also under consideration.

Energy saving film

A film to promote energy saving in industry, 'Audit!' – the second film to be produced as part of the 'Save it' campaign – has been produced by the Department of Energy.

The film is a 30-minute 16mm colour documentary aimed at decision-makers in industry and commerce. It demonstrates the crucial part played by an energy audit in achieving the efficient use of energy. The film includes discussions between two independent industrial energy consultants, Gordon Payne and Leslie Robey.

'Audit!' (catalogue number UK 2382) is available in both 16mm optical sound prints and video cassettes (Philips and Sony) on loan free of charge from Central Film Library, Government Building, Bromyard Avenue, Acton, London W3 7JB (01-743 5555).

The department's first film produced as part of the 'Save it' campaign – 'Save it – energy in industry' – is also available from the Central Film Library (catalogue number UK 3267).

The Department of Energy's checklist 'Energy saving in industry' and a series of fuel efficiency booklets, including one on 'Energy audits', are available from: Library, Department of Energy, Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QJ.

EITB fellowships in management

Lord Robens, chairman of the Engineering Industries Council, launched a new scheme on 18 October for developing manufacturing managers – the Engineering Industry Training Board fellowships in manufacturing management.

Introducing the scheme Lord Robens said that it was essential to success in the regeneration of British industry to have engineers capable of being – and remaining – in the forefront of technology, not only in creating products to meet customer requirements but equally in ensuring they were produced efficiently in terms of cost, quantity and delivery at home and overseas at competitive prices. He said only 18 per cent of professional engineers and qualified scientists in the engineering industry were employed in production or manufacturing management.

Hugh Scanlon, chairman of EITB, described the new scheme as 'a positive, practical and very pragmatic step towards channelling young able engineers into activities where their talents can be used to the greatest benefit of our industry and the British economy as a whole.'

The scheme consists of 10 fellowships a year tenable for up to 18 months and including an award equivalent to a salary at the rate of £5,000 p.a. Candidates must be technology graduates, have had at least three years in engineering, be aged between 25 and 32 and have aspirations for a career in engineering manufacturing management. They can apply as individuals or be nominated by companies.

After passing a rigorous selection procedure fellows will undergo an intensive programme. The first part will be a preparatory phase, carried out at Cranfield Institute of Technology, in which they will be brought up to a significant level of understanding of the manufacturing function and its management. The second and main phase, lasting 12 months, will consist of a substantial and genuine industrial project.

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Accelerated Projects Scheme attracts projects worth £566m

Assistance of £77 million has been offered under the Department of Industry's Accelerated Projects Scheme towards 96 projects costing £566 million.

In a written answer to a parliamentary question from Jeffrey Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr), Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry, said on 13 October:

'The Accelerated Projects Scheme was introduced in April 1975 to bring forward substantive manufacturing projects that would not otherwise take place during the recession.

'To date £77 million assistance has been offered on 96 projects costing £566 million; actual payments are phased in relation to progress with the project. The assistance will be to the following industrial sectors and regions:'

£ million

Sector	Assistance	Value of projects
Chemicals	25.0	196
Petroleum	20.0	144
Mechanical engineering	13.0	69
Vehicles and vehicle components	6.0	45
Metal manufacture and metal goods	6.0	40
Food and drink	2.0	29
Electrical engineering	2.0	18
Other sectors	3.0	25
	77.0	566
COUNTRY OR REGION		
Scotland	2.0	33
Wales	3.0	18
Northern	3.0	30
North-West	7.0	53
Yorkshire and Humberside	22.0	134
East Midlands	1.0	13
West Midlands	8.0	73
South West	2.0	23
Eastern	16.0	114
London and South Eastern	2.0	22
Other*	11.0	53
	77.0	566

* Projects in more than one region.

Note
A total of £120 million is available under the Accelerated Projects Scheme which ended in August 1976. All applications received by that date will be considered.

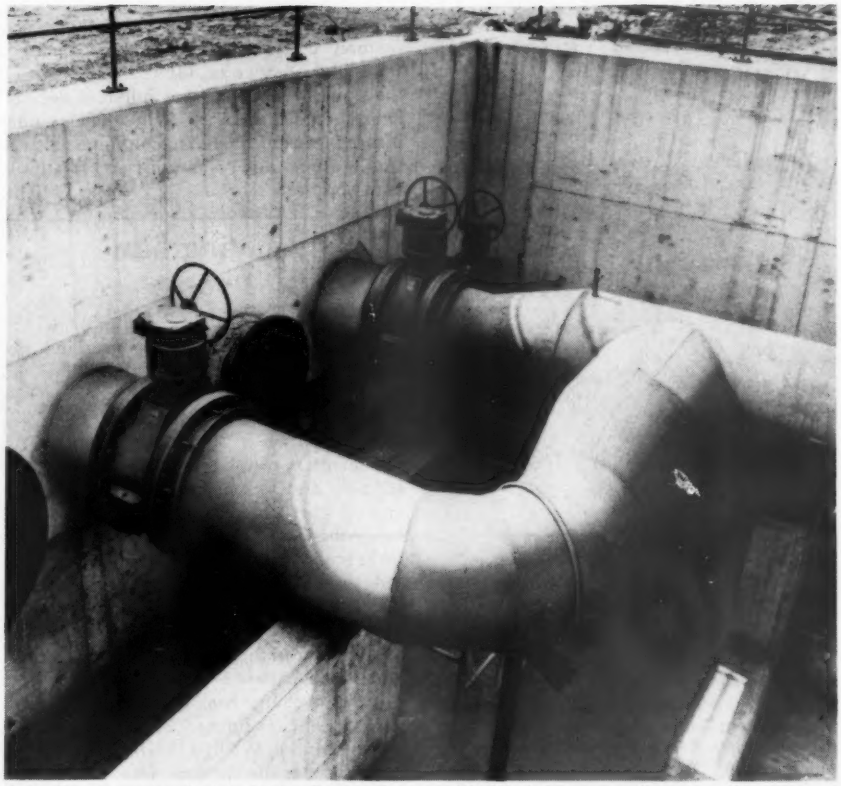
New industrial estate for Wigan

Development work has started on a new industrial estate site of about 8 hectares (20 acres) for the Department of Industry at Martland Mill, Wigan, Greater Manchester.

A contract worth about £150,000 has been awarded by the English Industrial Estates Corporation to R. M. Douglas Construction Ltd and the consultants are Roy Billington Associates of Liverpool.

The work consists of the construction of access and service roads together with associated drainage and the provision of main surface and foul sewers to serve the development.

The corporation also hopes to start work by the end of the year on an advance factory of about 2,100m² which has already been announced for Wigan.



Butterfly valves manufactured at the Beccles factory of Sir W. H. Bailey and Co Ltd, an IMI company, are being used to control potable and industrial water services at the new Redcar site of British Steel. Used throughout phase one of the Redcar development the valves control water supplies to sinter and pellet plants, coke ovens and the bi-product plant as well as potable supplies and boiler feed water. The valves are being installed by Pipework Engineering Developments, a subsidiary of the British Steel Corporation and part of Tubes Division's Pipework Engineering Group. When completed BSC's 1,500 acre Redcar development will make Teesside the biggest steel making centre in Europe with an annual steel making capacity of 11 million tonnes.

Government factories at Irlam and Rotherham

Two advance factories at Irlam and four terrace units at Rotherham have been announced by the English Industrial Estates Corporation.

The two advance factories at Irlam, Greater Manchester, are on the site of the former steelworks. One factory will be of about 2,100m² (23,000 sq ft) and the other of 1,350m² (15,000 sq ft). A contract worth about £327,000 has been awarded to George Wimpey and Co Ltd. Architects are Richard Turley and Associates of Newcastle upon Tyne and quantity surveyors are Davis Belfield and Everest of Gateshead.

Work is expected to start immediately and the premises should be ready for occupation in June next year. Inquiries regarding purchase or lease should be made to Mr P. M. Innes, Department of Industry, North West Region, Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BA (tel. 061-236 2171 ext. 646).

An advance factory consisting of four terrace units totalling about 1,000m² (11,000 sq ft) is being built for the Department of Industry at Wortley Road, Rotherham, South Yorkshire.

A contract worth about £136,000 has been awarded to F. P. A. Finnegan Ltd of Sheffield. Architects are Hadfield Cawkwell Davidson and Partners and quantity surveyors are Turner and Townsend, both of Sheffield.

Work is expected to start at the end of October and the premises should be ready for occupation by next May. Inquiries regarding lease should be made to: Regional Director, Department of Industry, Yorkshire and Humberside Priestley House, Park Row, Leeds (tel. Leeds (0532) 443171).

Ministerial meeting on Concorde

Gerald Kaufman, Minister of State in the Department of Industry with responsibility for aerospace, and Marcel Cavaille, the French Secretary of State for Transport, will meet on 2 November in London.

The ministers will discuss the Concorde project, the future of supersonic transport and the possibility of collaboration on subsonic aircraft.

Tourism worth £1,439 million to Britain last year says BTA

Britain earned a total of £1,439 million in foreign currency from nine million overseas visitors last year, says the annual report of the British Tourist Authority published on 18 October.

The nine million visitors represented an increase of 12 per cent on 1974. They spent £1,114 million within the country – a rise of £277 million (33 per cent) on the year – and an additional £325 million on fares paid to British air and shipping lines.

Tourist earnings in 1975 represented 13 per cent of Britain's invisible exports and about four per cent of all exports. They were equivalent to an income to £4 million a day in foreign exchange.

The BTA report says Britain's tourism record in 1975 was achieved when many competitive destination countries overseas experienced heavy weather. Britain was doubly fortunate in that increased visitors' spending was spread not only more evenly throughout the year but also more widely throughout the country.

Just under 40 per cent of overseas visitors came between July and September, in contrast to the 66 per cent of holidays taken by British people during that period. And over half of all nights spent by them in Britain were outside the London area.

But, warns the report, overall success in overseas visitor earnings must not obscure problem areas. Travel from the USA continued to decline almost to the end of the year. It was increases from other areas – especially Western Europe and the new Middle East market – which provided a new strength.

That Britain has weathered the world travel recession better than most countries was not accidental. Plans made for energetic marketing with the full support of the trade enabled BTA to promote a wider range of attractions in more countries overseas than ever before.

'Some of these plans, which require sustained effort overseas over several years, were made before the downturn in world travel,' says the report.

On national tourism policy, the report says BTA had never claimed to be in charge of tourism in Britain. It is, it says, those engaged in tourism who are in effective charge – hotels and airlines, restaurants and shipping lines, theatres and historic houses, all who carry out capital investment, who have to earn a profit.

'Official bodies can sometimes seem a little presumptuous,' it comments. 'Their true task indeed is important enough, for BTA, for example, works both as an essential catalyst and frequently as an initiator. BTA is also a national adviser on the national tourism interest.

'Two years ago,' continues the BTA report, 'we sought guidelines from government to establish what should be the national objectives. Equally, BTA sought partnership with industry in carrying out joint programmes wherever collective action was necessary. It is gratifying to report that throughout these recent difficult years the closest consultation and dialogue have developed with ministers and the civil service, as well as with industry, in concert with the English, Scottish and Wales tourist boards.

'When the original guidelines were issued by government, we were confident that they were not intended as a diktat, but as a basis for consultation. As this has developed, so it has become increasingly clear that the balance of payments consideration can be reconciled, usefully and constructively, with encouraging visitors to go to many remoter areas, and so spread the benefit of their spending nationwide.'

On the financing of tourism in Britain, the report says that though more can usually be

American travellers have voted Britain the 'most hospitable' country in Europe according to the influential *Joyer Travel Report*, a Washington, DC, publication. A certificate recognising the people of Britain for their friendliness was presented to Lord Bridges, minister (commercial) at the British embassy in Washington, by the editors of the report. Picture shows (left to right) Lord Bridges, Victor Block (the magazine's associate editor), Thomas Phillips (its publisher) and Richmond Davis (its managing editor). A spokesman for the British Tourist Authority said the award came as no surprise. 'Every research survey we carry out into what overseas visitors like about Britain shows the British people as our number one tourist attraction,' he said.

BTA chairman on inflation and Britain's 'outstanding' tourist trade

'Each government agency must play its part; not sit back hopelessly but seek out new resources and means of operation' said Sir Alexander Glen, chairman of the British Tourist Authority, informally introducing the authority's annual report on 18 October. Sir Alexander had commented that, because of the fall in the value of sterling, spending power for overseas ventures had been cut by an equivalent of £800,000. But, said Sir Alexander: 'If the government is resolved to bring down public expenditure, then I shall stand firmly with them'. He said that the difference would be made up by ruthless pruning on expenditure by the authority and the rest must come from the trade. He explained that what he was proposing was simply building on a substantial partnership between the authority, government and the trade. 'Increasing government subsidies can only mean increased inflation' said Sir Alexander, 'and each government agency must play its full part'.

Sir Alexander said that Britain should earn £2,000 million from overseas visitors in the next year. He estimated that there would be about 10 million visitors in 1976 and they would spend £1,500 million. 'If we include fares spent with British carriers, total earnings could be in the region of £2,000 million. In one word, what has happened to British tourism is outstanding'.

done with greater resources, the total allocation of government funds to tourism has been substantial in recent years. Grants-in-aid have been made for the work of the BTA and the national boards, while grants and loans have been made available through the national boards to hotels throughout the country and for special projects in the development areas.

Currently, in 1976/77, a total of £18.2 million grant-in-aid, including funds for development projects, has been made to the BTA and the English, Scottish and Wales tourist boards – a sum which compares favourably with what is provided in other European countries.

Recalling that BTA advised government on tourism aspects in the devolution white paper (*Our Changing Democracy: Devolution to Scotland and Wales*), the report says it took some years to develop close and effective co-operation with the government, the trade and the national tourist boards. The effective division of tasks and a harmonious, co-operative and co-ordinating system of working are now well established.

The BTA report says there are clear advantages for Britain's tourism in a combined marketing programme overseas. Britain is now well established as a leading international tourist destination.

As international competition grows fiercer, the individual entities comprising the United Kingdom – Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the islands and the regions of England – must decide how each can ensure that its own characteristic appeal to the outside world is marketed without losing the impact and efficiency of a co-ordinated effort.

Reviewing Britain's domestic holiday trade, the report says no matter how great growth may be in overseas visitors, profitability in the tourist trades depends also on a high degree of activity at home. Overall results in 1975 must cause some anxiety. The 40 million holidays taken by British people within Britain showed no increase over 1974, although their estimated spending rose from £1,100 million to £1,270 million.

Travel overseas by Britons recovered to the 1973 level of 11.6 million visits, of which 7.5 million were holiday visits.

Expenditure, excluding fares to international carriers, by British visitors abroad on holiday and on business in 1975 totalled £875 million – an increase of £192 million on the 1974 total of £683 million.

The difference between the amount which British residents spent overseas and the amount which overseas visitors spent within the UK was £239 million. 'This surplus in favour of Britain's balance of payments was the largest so far,' comments the BTA report, adding: 'Yet it could have been still bigger.'

Looking to the future, the BTA report says tourism, unlike many trades, is currently a well-invested industry. By and large, there is adequate capacity to sustain a substantial increase in year-round visitor movement over the next three years. Given a favourable situation, Britain's tourist earnings can be expected to expand rapidly in the immediate future.

But international competition increases. Many major tourist countries have lost business and are fighting harder to regain lost ground. Britain must give priority to marketing in the broadest sense. To extend travel throughout the country to lesser-known places and in unfashionable seasons demands highly-skilled and additional marketing effort. Although Britain's record has proved remarkably resilient to world recession, there are dramatic changes worldwide. There are new flows of traffic seeking new destinations and new tourist attractions strong enough to make or break existing resort areas.

Concluding, the BTA report says tourism is described as an invisible trade, but it is, in fact, a massive visible activity requiring substantial capital investment. BTA and the national tourist boards must plan for 1980 and beyond, when a new phase of expansion in tourism will be required.

This longer-term action is an important joint task for industry and Government. BTA's role is to study new trends, to learn from international experience, to advise on Government policy and industry plans and to stimulate co-operative activity.

The tourist trades must have the confidence to invest for the future. Increasing co-operation between the private sector and the State bodies must be ensured in investment plans for tourism. Plans take several years to make. Further time is needed to implement them. By then major developments will have become necessary in international and national transport, points of access, in accommodation and in recreational facilities.

Before boarding Britain's 125 mph high speed train Brig General James McDivitt (left), president of Pullman Standard Inc and former Apollo astronaut, discusses the performance of this world-beater with fellow passengers. From the left: T. Shedd, editor of the United States publication *Modern Railroads*; L. E. Middleton, director and general manager of BRE-Metro Ltd, and J. G. Smith, chief passenger manager, British Rail, Western Region. Pullman Standard is one of the United State's largest rolling-stock manufacturers. General McDivitt, accompanied by his wife, Mr Shedd and British Rail officials boarded the train at Paddington station and arrived two hours later in Cardiff, after the 145-mile scheduled service run. The fastest scheduled time to Cardiff is 1 hour 53 minutes, including a stop at Newport. This route now has the world's fastest diesel rail service. Later in the day, the American guests of the British government made the return journey by HST.

Car phone service extended to Scotland

All of Britain's main industrial areas are now covered by the Post Office's phone-in-your-car service, following the extension on 8 October of the radiophone service to central Scotland. Now the Post Office is considering extending the service to other parts of Britain.

Motorists, while in radiophone areas, can call – or receive calls from – anywhere in the UK, principal towns in the Irish Republic, the Isle of Man and Channel Islands. They can also reach most of Western Europe's telephones, the United States, and countries as far away as Hong Kong, Japan and Australia.

The Scottish area covered extends from the Clyde Estuary in the west to Dunbar in the east, and takes in all major towns in the central industrial belt of Scotland as well as the M9, M8 and M74 motorways.

Other areas already spanned by the service are South Lancashire, London, the Midlands, East Pennines, Severnside and South-East Wales, and the North-East of England.

Calls to or from a car phone within a single radiophone area cost – at the standard rate – 8p a minute with a three-minute minimum. Those to or from other radiophone areas are charged at the normal operator trunk rates with a supplement of 6p a minute. All charges are subject to VAT. Further information on radiophones can be obtained from local telephone sales offices.

Moneylenders Acts, 1900 to 1927

Entries in these lists are in alphabetical order according to the first initial letter of the title.

The following companies held orders of exemption valid at 30 September 1976 issued under Section 6(e) of the Moneylenders Act, 1900.

A. Booth (Estates) Ltd.
Afforestation Finance Ltd.
Agricultural Supplies (Cambridge) Ltd.
Airedale Investment Ltd.
Alex Lawrie Factors Ltd.
ANZ Overseas Finance Ltd.
Ashbrae Finance (UK) Ltd.
Arbuthnot Factors Ltd.
Audit and General Finance Ltd.
Austin Morris Group Facilities Ltd.

B. A. Finance Ltd.
B. S. G. Finance Ltd.
Baldrene Ltd.
Banca Commerciale Italiana Ltd.
Barclays Export and Finance Co. Ltd.
Barclays Overseas Development Corporation Ltd.
Barcross Finance Ltd.
Beamtenheimstattenwerk Gemeinnutzige Bausparkasse Fur Den Offentlichen Dienst Gesellschaft Mit Beschranker Haftung
Bentworth Trust Ltd.
Book Trade Improvement Ltd.
British Maritime Trust Ltd.
Bucks Land and Building Co. Ltd.
Builders and General Mortgage Co. Ltd., (The)
B. W. Trade Facilities Ltd.
Byas Mosley (Life and Pensions) Ltd.

CDFC (Ceylon) Ltd.
CDFC International Ltd.
CDFC (Malaysia) Ltd.
Cameron Fund Ltd. (The)
Canadian Ashland Finance (UK) Ltd.
Capital Development Co. Ltd.
Cashbonds Ltd.
Chrysler Wholesale Ltd.
Ciba Geigy (GFS) Ltd.
Circle and Piotrkow Provident and Investment Society Ltd.
City and Colonial Trust Ltd.
Claymore Field (Finance) Ltd.
Commerce International Trust Ltd.
Commonwealth Development Finance Co. Ltd.
Contemporary Finance Co. Ltd.
Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas
C. P. Choularton Sons and Partners Ltd.

Dao Heng Bank Ltd.
D. F. J. Charles Ltd.
Development Finance International Ltd.
Diaome Ltd.
Dominion Charter Merchant Trust Ltd.
Dorset, Somerset and Wilts Investment Society Ltd.

Efdum Securities Ltd.
Equipment Credit Ltd.

Faircliffe Finance Co. Ltd., (The)
Farnworth Finance Facilities Ltd.
Fenlock Investments
Finance Corporation for Industry Ltd.
Finfur Ltd.
First Canadian Financial Services (UK)
First Guarantee Trust Co. Ltd.
First National Housing Trust Ltd.
Ford Financial Trust Ltd.
Ford Motor Credit Co. Ltd.
Fortgain Ltd.
F. W. Developments Ltd.

GEC Investments Ltd.
Gee and Watson (Welfare and Benevolent) Ltd.
General Reversionary and Investment Co. Ltd.
Glenniffer Finance Corporation Ltd.
Grand Metropolitan (Finance) Ltd.
Guardian Mortgage Co. Ltd.

Henderson Administration Ltd.
Hobbart Properties Ltd.
Hodge Finance Ltd.
Hoeschst Finance Ltd.
Home and Country Properties Ltd.

Ibos Finance Ltd.
Independent Factors Ltd.
Indochine Finance (UK) Ltd.
Industrial Export Finance Co. Ltd.
Insurance Export Finance Co. Ltd.
International Factors Ltd.
I. S. Blomfield Ltd.
Ivor Hill (Investments) Ltd.

J. F. Nash Finance Ltd.
J. P. Morgan Interfunding Corporation
John Laing Construction (Finance) Ltd.
Jubilee Money Society Ltd.

Kingston Financial Services (Clyde) Ltd.

Lancashire and Yorkshire Reversionary Interest Co. Ltd.
Langersal Ltd.
Langham Life Finance Ltd.
Law Reversionary Interest Society Ltd., (The)
Lington Holdings Ltd.
Linnet Property Co. Ltd.
Liverpool Reversionary Co. Ltd., (The)
L L. and E. Finance (G.B.) Ltd.
Lloyds and Scottish Finance Ltd.
London Mercantile Finance Ltd.
London and Provincial Investments Ltd.

Mall Trust Corporation Ltd.
Manufacturers Hanover Export Finance Ltd.
Master Bakers and Confectioners Finance Co. Ltd.
Maybells Finance Ltd.
Merban Ltd.
Methodist Chapel Aid Association Ltd.
Millbank Development Services Ltd.
MIT Securities Ltd.
Mobil Europe Inc.
Mobil Services Co. Ltd.
Modern Investments Ltd.
Mutual Aid Association Ltd.
National and Commercial Development Capital Ltd.
National Film Finance Consortium Ltd.
New York London Trustee Co. Ltd.
Niagara Financial Services Ltd.

Oakmere Finance Ltd.
Ogden Street Estate Ltd.
Ordinto Investments Ltd.

Pan American Employees Mutual Association Ltd.
Paribas Finance Ltd.
Phoenix Redcliffe Ltd.
Piper Finance Ltd.
Pleasure Heating Finance and Developments Ltd.
Produce and General Investments Ltd.
Property Investment and Finance (Developments) Ltd.

Queen Street Trust Ltd.

Raleigh Industries (Gradual Payments) Ltd.
Rediffusion Finance Ltd.
RIB Eastern Ltd.
RMC Finance Ltd.
Robert Fleming and Co. Ltd.
Robert Stanton Ltd.

S C R Finance Ltd.
St. James's Development Trust Ltd.
St. Paul's Guarantee Corporation Ltd.
Scottish Central Finance Ltd.
Scottish and European Finance Ltd.
Selap Ltd.
Selection Trust Ltd.
Selective Guaranty Ltd.
Ship Mortgage Finance Co. Ltd.
Small Industries Council for Rural Areas of Scotland
South Birmingham Savings Society Ltd.
Southsea Mortgage and Investment Co. Ltd.
Standard Guarantee Ltd.
Stewart Salmon and Co. Ltd.
Swiss Bank Corporation (International Ltd.)

TKM Credit Corporation Ltd.
TWA United Kingdom Employees Credit Union Ltd.
Thomson North Sea Finance Co. Ltd.
Tokenhouse Finance Ltd.
Toronto Dominion Bank Investment (UK) Ltd.
Treesford Securities Ltd.

UDT International Finance Ltd.
U.K.F. Fertilisers Ltd.

Warbridge Investment Co. Ltd.
Wates Ltd.
Wessex Finance Corporation Ltd.
West End Provident and Investment Society Ltd.
Western Discount Co. Ltd.
Westminster House and Land Investment Co. Ltd.

Whitehall Securities Corporation Ltd.
Worcestershire Housing and Savings Society, (The)

Yelverton Finance (London) Ltd.
Yorkshire Bank Finance Ltd.

The following persons held certificates, valid at 30 September 1976, under Section 123 of the Companies Act, 1967, to the effect that they had satisfied the Department of Trade that they could properly be treated for the purposes of the Moneylenders Acts, 1900 to 1927 as being persons bona fide carrying on the business of banking.

African Continental Bank Ltd.
Allied Bank International
Amex Bank Ltd.
Anglo-Continental Trust Ltd.
Anglo-Eastern Bank Ltd.

Banco do Estado de Sao Paulo SA
Bank of Europe Ltd.
Bank Fur Gemeinwirtschaft AG
Bank Hapoalim BM
Bank of New Providence Ltd.
Bank of New South Wales Savings Bank Ltd.
Bank of Scotland Finance Co. Ltd.
Bank of Tokyo Ttrust Co., (The)
Barclays Bank Trust Co. Ltd.
Barnett, Christie Ltd.
Bear Securities Ltd.
Beverley Acceptances Ltd.
Boston Trust and Savings Ltd.
Bowmaker Ltd.
Bremar Holdings Ltd.
British Bank of Commerce Ltd.
Brook Securities and Co. Ltd.
Brown Harriman and International Banks Ltd.
Burlington Investments Ltd.
Burston Finance Ltd.

Cannon Street Acceptances Ltd.
Capitol Consumer and Commercial Finance Ltd.
C. E. Coates and Company Limited
Cedar Holdings Ltd.
Central Trustee Savings Bank Ltd.
Chancery Trust Ltd.
Chase Manhattan Ltd.
Citibank Trust Ltd.
Citicorp International Bank Ltd.
Cleveland Guaranty Ltd.
Clydesdale Bank Finance Corporation Ltd.
Commercial Bank of Malawi Ltd.
Commercial Bank of Wales Ltd.
Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia
Commonwealth Trading Bank of Australia
Concorde Trust Ltd.
Consolidated Credits and Discounts Ltd.
Co-operative Commercial Bank Ltd.
Copleys Bank Ltd.
Corinthian Securities Ltd.
Credit Suisse White Weld Ltd.
Credito Italiano SpA
Cripps Warburg Ltd.

Dalscot Ltd.
David Samuel Trust Ltd.
Dawnay Day and Co. Ltd.
Drayton Corporation Ltd.
Duboff Brothers Ltd.
Dunbar and Co. Ltd.

Eagil Trust Co. Ltd.
Edward Bates and Sons Ltd.
E. S. Schwab and Co. Ltd.
European Brazilian Bank Ltd.

First Chicago Ltd.
First Fortune Ltd.
First International Bancshares Ltd.
First London Securities Ltd.
First Maryland Ltd.
First National Bank in Dallas
First National Finance Corp. Ltd.
First National Securities Ltd.

G. R. Dawes and Co. Ltd.
G. T. Whyte and Co. Ltd.
Goode Durrant Trust Ltd.
Gray Dawes and Co. Ltd.
Gresham Trust Ltd.
Greyhound Guaranty Ltd.

Havana International Bank Ltd.
Henry Ansbacher and Co. Ltd.
Heritable and General Investment Bank Ltd.
HFC Trust Ltd.
Hokkaido Takushoku Bank Ltd.
Hume Corporation Ltd.

Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd., (The)
Industrial Bank of Scotland Ltd.
Investitions – Und Handels – Bank AG
Iran Overseas Investment Bank Ltd.
Italian International Bank Ltd.

Jacobs Kroll and Co. Ltd.
Janata Bank
Japan International Bank Ltd.
Julian S. Hodge and Co. Ltd.
Julius Baer International Ltd.

Knowlsey and Co. Ltd.

Lloyds Associated Banking Co. Ltd.
Lloyds and Scottish Trust Ltd.
Lombard North Central Ltd.
London and County Securities Ltd.
London and European Finance and Investment Ltd.
London Capital Securities Ltd.
London Mercantile Corporation Ltd.
Medens Trust Ltd.
Merrill Lynch International Bank Ltd.
Mitsubishi Bank Ltd., (The)

Bankruptcy records for England and Wales

Details of bankruptcies in England and Wales are maintained in a public search room at Room 901. Thomas More Building, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2JY.

Searches can be made personally or by an agent and a fee of 25p in respect of each bankruptcy inquiry is payable at the time.

National Commercial Bank Ltd.
National Union Bank Ltd.
N. H. Woolley and Co. Ltd.
Nordic Bank Ltd.
North Carolina National Bank
Northern Commercial Trust Ltd.
Northern Trust Co., (The)
Norwich General Trust Ltd.

P. S. Refson and Co. Ltd.
People's Bank Ltd., (The)
Philipp Brothers and Joseph Ltd.
Pubali Bank

Raphael, Robinson and Glyn
Red Dragon Securities Ltd.
Republic National Bank of Dallas
Republic National Bank of New York
Robert Fraser and Partners Ltd.
Royal Bank of Canada Trust Corporation Ltd., (The)
Royal Trust Company of Canada, (The)

Samuel Montagu (MBFC) Ltd.
St. Margarets Finance Ltd.
Schlesinger Ltd.
Security Trust Company Ltd.
Societé Générale (France) Bank Ltd.
Sterling Credit Ltd.
Sterling Industrial Securities Ltd.

Thames Guaranty Ltd.
Tozer Standard and Chartered Ltd.
Trade Development Bank
Trucanda Trusts Ltd.
Twentieth Century Banking Corporation Ltd.

United Dominions Trust Ltd.
United International Bank Ltd.

Vavasseur Trust Co. Ltd., (The)
Vernons Trust Corporation

Wallace Brothers Bank Ltd.
Wells Fargo Ltd.
Western Bank Ltd.
Whiteaway, Laidlaw and Co. Ltd.
Williams, Glyn and Co.
Wintrust Securities Ltd.

Have you a good export picture?

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news.

Send your export photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Protection of Depositors Act 1963

Companies treated as banking or discount companies. The following companies are recognised by the Secretary of State as banking or discount companies for the purposes of the Protection of Depositors Act 1963 (as amended) as at 30 September 1976. Companies marked with an asterisk are also recognised as banking or discount companies for the purposes of Schedule 8 to the Companies Act 1948 (as amended).

*Alexanders Discount Co. Ltd.
Algemene Bank Nederland NV
*Allen, Harvey and Ross Ltd.
Allied Bank International
Allied Irish Banks Ltd.
*American Express International Banking Corporation
Amex Bank Ltd.
*Anglo-Portuguese Bank Ltd.
*Antony Gibbs Holdings Ltd.
*Arbuthnot Latham and Co. Ltd.
*Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd.

Banca Commerciale Italiana SpA
Banca Nazionale del Lavoro SpA
*Banco de Bilbao
*Banco de Santander
Banco do Brasil SA
*Banco Espanol en Londres SA
*Bank Leumi (UK) Ltd.
Bank Melli Iran
*Bank of Adelaide (The)
*Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association
*Bank of Cyprus (London) Ltd.
*Bank of India
Bank of Ireland
*Bank of London and South America Ltd.
*Bank of Montreal
*Bank of New South Wales
*Bank of New Zealand
*Bank of Nova Scotia (The)
Bank of Scotland
Bank of Scotland Finance Co. Ltd.
*Bank of Tokyo Ltd. (The)
*Bankers Trust Co.
*Banque Belge Ltd.
*Banque Belgo-Zairoise SA
*Banque de L'Indochine et de Suez
Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, SA
*Banque de Suez (UK) Ltd.
*Banque Nationale de Paris Ltd.
Barclays Bank Ltd.
*Barclays Bank International Ltd.
Barclays Merchant Bank Ltd.
*Baring Brothers and Co. Ltd.
*Brandts Ltd.
*British Bank of the Middle East (The)
*Brown, Shipley and Co. Ltd.

*Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
*Cater Ryder and Co. Ltd.
Central Bank of India
*Charterhouse, Japhet Ltd.
*Chase Manhattan Bank, NA (The)
Chemical Bank
*C. Hoare and Co.
City National Bank of Detroit
*Clive Discount Co. Ltd.
Clydesdale Bank Ltd.
Clydesdale Bank Finance Corporation Ltd.
*Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Ltd. (The)
*Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd. (The)
*Commercial Bank of the Near East Ltd. (The)
Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago
*Continental Trade Bank
Co-operative Bank Ltd.
County Bank Ltd.
Coutts and Co.
Coutts Finance Co.
*Crédit Industriel et Commercial
*Crédit Lyonnais
Credito Italiano SpA
Crocker National Bank

Dai Ichi Kangyo Bank Ltd.
Daiwa Bank Ltd. (The)
Detroit Bank and Trust Co. (The)
Dow Banking Corporation

European Banking Co. Ltd.
European Brazilian Bank Ltd.

*First National Bank of Boston
*First National Bank of Chicago (The)
*First National City Bank
First Pennsylvania Bank NA
First Wisconsin National Bank of Milwaukee
Forward Trust Ltd.
Fuji Bank Ltd. (The)

*Gerrard and National Discount Co. Ltd.
*Gillett Brothers Discount Co. Ltd.
Girard Trust Bank
Gray Dawes and Co. Ltd.
*Grindlays Bank Ltd.
*Guiness Mahon and Co. Ltd.

*Habib Bank Ltd.
*Hambros Bank Ltd.
Harris Trust and Savings Bank
*Hill, Samuel and Co. Ltd.
*Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (The)

International Commercial Bank Ltd.
*International Westminster Bank Ltd.
*Ionian Bank Ltd.
Irving Trust Co.
Italian International Bank Ltd.

Japan International Bank Ltd.
*Jessel, Toynbee and Co. Ltd.
*J. Henry Schroder Wagg and Co. Ltd.
Johnson Matthey Bankers Ltd.
Julian S. Hodge and Co. Ltd.
Julius Baer International Ltd.

Keyser Ullmann Ltd.
*King and Shaxson Ltd.
*Kleinwort Benson Ltd.

*Lazard Brothers and Co. Ltd.
*Leopold Joseph and Sons Ltd.
*Lewis's Bank Ltd.
Lloyds Associated Banking Co. Ltd.
Lloyds Bank Ltd.
*Lloyds Bank International Ltd.
*Lloyds Bank International (France) Ltd.
Lombard North Central Ltd.
London Multinational Bank Ltd.

*Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co.
Marine Midland Bank – New York
*Mellon Bank NA
*Mercantile Bank Ltd.
Mercantile Credit Co. Ltd.
Merrill Lynch International Bank Ltd.
Midland Bank Ltd.
*Midland and International Banks Ltd.
Mitsui Bank Ltd.
*Morgan Grenfell and Co. Ltd.
*Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York
*Moscow Narodny Bank Ltd.

*National Bank of Australasia Ltd. (The)
National Bank of Detroit
*National Bank of Greece SA
*National Bank of New Zealand Ltd. (The)
*National Commercial and Glyns Ltd.
National Westminster Bank Ltd.
*Nedbank Ltd.
*NM Rothschild and Sons Ltd.
Nordic Bank Ltd.
Northern Trust Company of Chicago.

*Ottoman Bank

*Rea Brothers Ltd.
Republic National Bank of Dallas
*Royal Bank of Canada (The)
*Royal Bank of Scotland Ltd. (The)

Saitama Bank Ltd. (The)
*Samuel Montagu and Co. Ltd.
Samuel Montagu (MBFC) Ltd.
*Sanwa Bank Ltd. (The)
Scandinavian Bank Ltd.
*Seccombe, Marshall and Campion Ltd.
Security Pacific National Bank
*S. G. Warburg and Co. Ltd.
*Singer and Friedlander Ltd.
*Slater, Walker Ltd.
*Smith, St. Aubyn and Co. Ltd.
*Société Générale pour Favoriser le Développement du Commerce et de l'Industrie en France SA
Standard Chartered Bank Ltd. (The)
*State Bank of India
Sumitomo Bank Ltd. (The)
*Swiss Bank Corporation

Tokai Bank Ltd. (The)
*Toronto-Dominion Bank (The)

*Union Bank of Switzerland
*Union Discount Company of London Ltd. (The)
*United Bank Ltd.
United Dominions Trust Ltd.
United International Bank Ltd.

Wells Fargo Ltd.
Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale
Western American Bank (Europe) Ltd.
Williams, Glyn and Co.
Williams and Glyn's Bank Ltd.

*Yorkshire Bank Ltd.

Eurocanadian Shipholdings, Furness Withy and Manchester Liners – Monopolies Report

Existing and proposed mergers involving Eurocanadian Shipholdings and Furness Withy and its subsidiary Manchester Liners would be against the public interest, said John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, on 14 October. Announcing the conclusions of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's report*, Mr Fraser said in reply to a parliamentary question from Ioan Evans (Aberdare):

'The report is being published today. The commission has found that a merger already exists between Eurocanadian Shipholdings and Furness Withy and Co, that a further merger is in contemplation between those companies, and that a merger is also in contemplation between Eurocanadian Shipholdings and Manchester Liners. The commission has concluded in the case of the merger involving Manchester Liners that the service which that company gives to British exporters and shippers would be likely to be impaired. The merger might deprive British shippers of their present choice between conference and non-conference services. Manchester Liners would suffer substantial disruption and damage. Any economies from a merged North Atlantic container operation (which would accrue mainly to Eurocanadian Shipholdings) would compensate neither for this nor for the shift in the centre of control abroad. The effects of the merger on the balance of payments and on employment would be more likely to be unfavourable than favourable. Also Eurocanadian proposed to use container ships larger than those currently used by Manchester Liners. This would be likely at least to accelerate any substitution of Liverpool for Manchester as the base port of Manchester Liners. The commission think this would be harmful to regional interests.

'The commission has found that the Eurocanadian Shipholdings shareholding at the time of the reference (20.6 per cent) would give it a reasonable prospect of attaining representation on the board of Furness Withy and that this would be against the public interest as the commission concluded that Eurocanadian Shipholdings was a competitor of Manchester Liners in the UK and Canada and a potential competitor of Furness Withy and Co in other parts of the world. A representative of Eurocanadian Shipholdings on the board of Furness Withy would be in a situation where his duty to Eurocanadian Shipholdings and his duty to Furness Withy would conflict, and as Eurocanadian Shipholdings would seek control of Manchester Liners' North Atlantic container operations such representation would also be likely to create discord within the Board of Furness Withy and Co.

'Finally the commission has found that the attainment of an increased holding of up to 29.9 per cent in Furness Withy and Co, which has been Eurocanadian Shipholdings' intention, would enable that company to get a sufficient number of representatives on to the board of Furness Withy and Co to be able to control its policy and the policy of its subsidiary Manchester Liners. This would have all the adverse effects already referred to above.

'The commission recommend that Eurocanadian Shipholdings should not be allowed to increase its shareholding in Furness Withy and Co and Manchester Liners and that it should be required, over a reasonable period of say two years, to reduce its holding of the ordinary shares of Furness Withy and Co to not more than 10 per cent of that company's issued ordinary share capital and in the meantime not to exercise voting rights in respect of shares representing more than 10 per cent of the issued ordinary share capital of Furness Withy and Co.

'My rt hon friend, in the light of the commission's findings that the proposed merger between Eurocanadian Shipholdings and Manchester Liners, and the proposed and existing mergers between Eurocanadian Shipholdings and Furness Withy, are contrary to the public interest and should not be permitted, is asking the Director General of Fair Trading to discuss the implementation of the commission's recommendations with Eurocanadian Shipholdings.'

The Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection referred the existing and proposed merger situations involving Eurocanadian Shipholdings Ltd and Furness Withy and Co Ltd and its subsidiary Manchester Liners Ltd to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on 28 November 1975 for investigation and report. A further reference involving the same companies was made on 23 December 1975. The commission was originally given six months in which to report but this was subsequently extended by a further two months. A group of six members of the commission including the commission's chairman, Mr J. G. Le Quesne, QC, investigated the case. Their report is a unanimous one.

Under section 88 of the Fair Trading Act, where a report from the commission concludes that a merger operates or may be expected to operate against the public interest, the Secretary of State may request the Director General of Fair Trading to consult the relevant parties in order to obtain undertakings with a view to remedying or preventing the adverse effects specified in the report.

Copies of the report are available, price £1.80, from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 49 High Holborn, London WC1V 6HB and branches or by post from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1, price £1.97.

* Eurocanadian Shipholdings Ltd and Furness, Withy and Co Ltd and Manchester Liners Ltd. House of Commons Paper 639.

Price restraint undertakings on TV rentals

Present TV rentals charged by four major specialist firms will be held until August 1977, Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, announced on 15 October.

Replying to a parliamentary question from George Rogers (Chorley) Mr Hattersley said:

'The Price Commission's Report on the TV rental business suggests that charges could be lower, even if this had to be at the expense of profit margins.

'In the light of the Price Commission's report, we have already taken steps to ensure that investment relief under the Price Code should not be available in respect of expenditure by the rental firms on TV receivers.

'The report was discussed with the six largest specialist firms which together account for about 90 per cent of the specialist rental market. We put it to the firms that in the light of the Price Commission's report, the public would look for a special effort to absorb costs and maintain price stability. In response, Granada TV Rental Ltd, Rediffusion Ltd, Thorn Television Rentals Ltd, and Visionhire Ltd have given me an undertaking that there will be no increase in existing rental charges in the present phase of price control, that is to the end of July 1977. This means that during that period, subject to unforeseen circumstances, they will absorb already known cost increases including the recently announced higher interest charges, the significant costs involved in the new VAT definition which operates from November 1976 and the 2 per cent surcharge on the employers' national insurance contribution which operates from April 1977. If there are cost increases beyond those enumerated which cannot be absorbed, the companies will review the position with the department.

'It is clear that average profit figures in the Price Commission's report cover a wide range of circumstances. Some rental operations are profitable by the general standards of British industry, others less so.

'British Relay TV Ltd and Telefusion Ltd had not increased prices for some time and had proposals for increases already in preparation when the report was received. These will take effect, and the new level of charges will be subject to the undertaking above.

'In giving this undertaking of price stability, the firms have made it clear to my department that they do not accept that the Price Commission's comments on their profits are justified. They have also drawn attention to the relatively small number of complaints which arise in an industry which serves millions of subscribers and to the fact that charges have been frequently affected by matters outside the industry's control such as the various changes in VAT and hiring controls.

'I have told the firms that I welcome their undertaking to restrain prices.'

The Price Commission's report 'Television Rental Charges' was published on 5 October, and is available from all branches of HM Bookshops, price 60p, or by post from

HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1, price 66½p.

The report was based on the financial results of the large specialist rental firms, and Mr Hattersley's statement refers to undertakings given by those firms. The freeze on tariffs applies to the scheduled charges of the six companies named.

Clearance of merger proposal

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection has decided, on the information at present before him, not to refer the following proposed merger to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973.

Wormald International Ltd and Mather and Platt Ltd.

Safer fireworks this year

Guy Fawkes celebrations should be safer this year as a result of the new Explosives (Age of Purchase) Act 1976, and a package of voluntary measures agreed between DPCP and the manufacturers', retailers', and wholesalers' associations.

Under the agreement between DPCP and manufacturers, retailers' and wholesalers' organisations, the period when fireworks should generally be available in the shops is limited to three weeks before 5 November and a few days afterwards. This three-week period began on 15 October.

The new act prohibits the sale of fireworks to anyone apparently under the age of sixteen and increases the maximum penalty for the offence from £20 to £200. The penalty for letting fireworks off in the street or a public place is similarly increased. Apart from the limitation on the period of availability mentioned above, the voluntary measures agreed between DPCP and the firework trade include:

1 phasing out the flyabout or helicopter types of fireworks;
2 reducing the number of bangers over the next two years by over 20 million (half of the 1975 output);

and

3 having nearly all fireworks sold in ready-boxed selections.

Fireworks can be dangerous when handled carelessly, and every year many people are injured through their misuse. In recent years the number of accidents from this cause has been falling, largely owing to improvements in the design and composition of fireworks and widespread publicity by the DPCP, local authorities, the Firework Makers' Guild, the Joint Firework Trade Committee, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and other organisations. There has also been a fall in the number of fireworks sold each year. Nevertheless, in 1975 fireworks injured 766 people in Great Britain, of whom 593 were under 16 years old.

Double monopoly reference – ice cream and metal fasteners

Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, made his first references to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on 14 October. The references are of the supply in the United Kingdom of ice cream and water ices; and the supply in, and export from, the UK of certain metal fasteners.

The Director General has asked the commission to report within 18 months on ice cream and water ices and within two years on metal fasteners. Any person or organisation wishing to offer evidence in relation to either of the two references should write to: The Secretary, The Monopolies and Mergers Commission, New Court, 48 Carey Street, London WC2A 2JT.

Notes

'Ice cream and water ices' have been defined for the purposes of this reference as including ice lollies, soft ice cream mix and ice cream to which fruit, fruit pulp, fruit puree, fruit juice, chocolate, nuts or any other substance is added, but excluding cakes or other articles of food of which ice cream forms a composite part. The retail market is estimated to have been worth about £200 million in 1975 and is dominated by two firms, T. Wall and Son (a Unilever subsidiary) and Lyons Maid Ltd, whose holding company, Glacier Foods Ltd, is jointly owned by J. Lyons and Co Ltd, and Nestle. The two companies are thought to account for over 80 per cent of the market.

Five descriptions of 'metal fastener' have been referred, namely, nails, tacks and staples; nuts and bolts; rivets; screws; and cotters and cotter pins. These five descriptions are believed to cover all the goods (except loose washers) included in Minimum List Heading 393 of the Standard Industrial Classification, with the addition of wire nails from MLH 394. Dress-making pins, zip fasteners, press studs, hooks and eyes, paper clips, and the like are excluded from the reference. 'Nuts and bolts' are defined for the purposes of the reference as including nuts and bolts supplied separately, studs, screw studs, bolt ends and, when supplied with nuts and bolts, washers, while 'screws' are defined as including socket screws, coach screws, screw hooks and screw rings.

Production in the United Kingdom of metal fasteners (excluding wire nails) was worth about £237 million in 1975, of which exports accounted for £34 million. Imports were worth £31 million. GKN Subsidiaries are believed to account for more than 25 per cent of all metal fasteners but do not have a monopoly in each of the five descriptions of goods. It is believed that other manufactures have monopolies in some of the particular descriptions of metal fastener.

Patents endorsed 'Licences of Right'

Under Section 35 of the Patents Act 1949 the following patents were endorsed 'Licences of Right' on the date specified.

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
24 September 1976		
1,009,858	Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique	Improvements in electronic filters making use of quantum transitions and in devices including such a filter, and in particular oscillators and magnetometers
1,015,074	Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique	Improvements in or relating to frequency measuring devices
1,076,700	Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique	Improvements in methods for the dynamic polarisation of the atomic nuclei of a solvent, in particular of a hydrogenated solvent, and in magnetometers for measuring the intensity of weak fields in particular of the earth magnetic field
1,076,889	Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique	Improvements in methods and devices for measuring the intensities of very weak magnetic fields
1,083,266	Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique	Improvements in devices for measuring magnetic fields, in particular low magnetic fields, on board a movable body
1,137,302	Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique	Improvements in nuclear magnetic resonance magnetometers of the spin coupling oscillator type
1,146,542	Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique	Improvements in magnetic resonance magnetometers
1,150,663	Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique	Improvements in magnetic resonance magnetometers
1,150,664	Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique	A frequency meter
1,167,961	Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique	Improvements in devices for measuring magnetic field gradients
1,167,962	Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique	Improvements in methods and devices for compensation of parasitic magnetic fields, in particular on an aircraft carrying a magnetometer
1,189,015	Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique	Process and apparatus for removing protium and tritium from heavy water
1,193,468	Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique	Nuclear magnetic resonance magnetometer of the spin coupling type
1,198,691	Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique	Ring device for damping a flexible sleeve in a conduit
1,198,692	Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique	An apparatus for fitting in a conduit a ring type clamping device for a flexible sleeve
1,199,232	Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique	Improvements in or relating to pairs of solutions having gyromagnetic properties, usable in nuclear and electronic resonance magnetometry, and magnetometers comprising such pairs
1,215,343	Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique	Improvements in or relating to processes for the preparation of ceramics of materials, in particular of fissionable materials

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
1,244,199	Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique	Improvements in or relating to a method of, and an apparatus for, automatically and periodically determining the rate of settling of suspended matter in a liquid
1,264,348	Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique	Compensation of parasitic or stray magnetic fields, especially aboard an aircraft
1,278,213	Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique	Improvements in or relating to magnetometers
1,397,699	Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique	A process for the preparation of porous cermets and metal compositions
1,172,865	Fibrelock Fabrics Ltd	Improvements in non-woven fabrics and their manufacture
1,175,530	Fibrelock Fabrics Ltd	Improvements in non-woven fabrics and their manufacture
1,045,113	Blomberger Holzindustrie B. Hausmann KG	Method of producing fire resisting wooden boards or panels
1,199,452	Blomberger Holzindustrie B. Hausmann KG	Method of producing wooden boards
1,427,154	Osborn Steels Ltd	An improvement in or relating to the rolling of metal
1,427,155	Osborn Steels Ltd	An improvement in or relating to the production of turbine and compressor blades
1,166,119	Regie Nationale des Usines Renault	Improvements in air-conditioning installations for vehicles
1,322,547	Regie Nationale des Usines Renault	Improvements in low-pressure chillcasting devices with multiple mold cavities
1,229,219	Coal Industry (Patents) Ltd	Electric switch
1,303,525	Raphael-Pierre Androsiglio Parc 'La Castorette'	Improvements in and relating to footwear
1,371,097	Christopher Anthony Budd	Improvements in or relating to engines
1,398,016	Societe Generale Des Aments Portland de l'Escaut en abrege 'Cimescaut' Societe Anonyme	Composition based on bitumen and a filler
1,408,561	Firth Cleveland Ltd	Improvements in or relating to the lining of pipes and conduits

Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of the above patents was precluded by a contract in which claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on Patent Form No. 45 within two months after the date of endorsement.

E. Armitage
Comptroller

Re-organisation of pilotage

Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping, has outlined the Department of Trade's policies for a progressive re-organisation of pilotage in the UK in order to 'set the record straight.'

Replying to a parliamentary question on 13 October by Alan Lee Williams, (Hornchurch) who asked whether the government intended to take over the functions of Trinity House, Mr Clinton Davis said:

'I am pleased to have this opportunity to set the record straight on the government's proposals, particularly in view of recent misleading publicity.

'My department is currently working on amendments to the Pilotage Act 1913 to implement the unanimous recommendations of the Steering Committee on Pilotage (SCOP), which comprised representatives of pilots, shipowners and port operators as well as two Elder Brethren of Trinity House, London.

'It is our intention that the pilotage service should continue to be based on local districts which is one of the main strengths of the system. However, SCOP recommended various changes in pilotage administration, notably that in larger ports pilotage authorities should be representative of all pilotage interests together with some independent members who could contribute additional navigational and management experience.

'These organisational changes would be carried out progressively and in full consultation with all interested parties including, of course, Trinity House whose experience in pilotage is fully acknowledged. A Central Pilotage Board would act as a catalyst to re-organisation and undertake various continuing functions to promote the efficiency of the service which can best be carried out centrally. There would be no charge to the taxpayer for the work of this board: the costs of operating the pilotage service would continue to be met from dues charged on shipping.

'These proposals are supported by the General Council of British Shipping and the other interests concerned with the exception of Trinity House which now advocates a central advisory board; and it is agreed by all the parties concerned that there is a pressing need to bring up-to-date the law governing pilotage.

'The government has no intention of changing Trinity House's responsibilities in England and Wales as a general lighthouse authority.'

The Steering Committee on Pilotage (SCOP) was appointed in September 1973 by Michael Heseltine, then Minister for Aerospace and Shipping. It was charged 'to examine the arrangements for marine pilotage in the United Kingdom with a view to preparing new legislation to supersede the Pilotage Act 1913'. The SCOP Report was published in June 1974.

The Department of Trade issued a policy statement on marine pilotage on 12 December 1975 broadly accepting the SCOP recommendations.

First report of Policyholders' Protection Board

The first report and accounts of the Policyholders Protection Board have been published. Copies are available on request to the Secretary, Policyholders Protection Board, Aldermary House, Queen Street, London, EC4.

New areas at Gatwick

The first new parts of the departures terminal, scene of some of the worst congestion over the last few months, were brought into use on 14 October at London' Gatwick Airport.

The British Airports Authority say that the new areas comprising shops, open areas and passport control points, are the first of a series of openings that will take place at intervals over the next two months. The next main phase will be completed next spring with full completion in autumn 1977. Regular travellers are warned that familiar surroundings will alter drastically, and to leave a few minutes extra time to find their way. Extra care has been taken to ensure that all changes are sign-posted in the well-known yellow and black sign system.

The new areas are part of the £70 million development programme designed to increase the capacity of the airport from the 1975 figure of 5.5 million passengers a year to 16 million passengers a year. This programme will be largely completed by 1978.

Official appointments

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, has made the following appointments.

British Airways Board. Albert E. Frost to be a member of the board with effect from 1 January 1977. Mr. Frost's appointment is part-time and will run until 31 December 1979.

Cinematograph Films Council. Anthony William Mallinson to be re-appointed chairman of the council for a period of up to three months with effect from 1 October 1976.

English Tourist Board. Sir Frank Price to be a member of the board for a period of three years.

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has made the following appointments.

West Midlands Gas Consumers' Council. The following to be members of the council until 31 October 1978; Councillors P. A. Donnellan, Mrs. H. B. Dore, E. J. Lloyd, H. Lymer, Mr J. Martin, Councillor Mrs M. J. Price, Mrs O. M. Withnall, Councillor J. D. N. Young.

Post Office Users' Council for Scotland. The following to be members:

Mr L. B. Beck
Mr W. J. Brown
*Mrs B. Brown
*Mr S. Cunningham
*Mr D. Douglas
Mr G. L. Duncan
*Mr. H. Henderson
*Mr. W. J. Humphries
*Mrs. A. G. Keay
Dr. A. Kellie Brooke
*Mr W. Mathew
Mr C. J. McDonald
Mrs I. McGowran
*Cllr J. McPherson
*Mrs M. Paterson
Mr T. Ransley BSc(Eng)
*Mr D. A. Ross-Stewart
Mrs P. M. N. Stewart
Mrs M. Taylor
*Cllr W. J. Taylor

Post Office Users' Council for Wales. The following to be members:

*Mr R. Baxter	Mr P. H. Meadows
*Mrs M. Brownson	Mr E. Parker
Mr J. E. R. Carson	Cllr G. J. Parry
Major T. V. Fisher-Hoch	Miss M. Phillips
	Mrs A. M. Rees
*Mrs S. Hooson	Mrs H. Rees
*Mrs B. Johnson	Mr A. Roberts
*Mrs I. Jones	*Mr J. Roberts
Mr J. A. Jones	*Mr B. Scully
Mr W. V. Jones	*Miss A. Thomas
Mr G. McBride	*Mr E. Thomas
Mr A. McTaggart-Short	Mr G. T. Taylor
	*Mrs D. Willis

* Denotes new members

Roy Hattersley appoints special advisers

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has appointed two full-time special advisers. They are Professor Maurice Peston, professor of economics at Queen Mary College, University of London, and David Hill, who has been Mr Hattersley's political assistant since 1972.

A new machine system for sewing the edges of blankets has been commissioned at the Calder Valley factory of Ratcliffe Bros Ltd. Developed by Ray Miller, general manager of the Cutting Machinery Division of John T. Hardaker Ltd, in conjunction with the dry finishing staff of Ratcliffe Bros, the automatic edging system utilises either two conventional sewing machine heads, adjustably-mounted to handle the standard 250cm material width in a folded state, thereby also halving invaluable floor coverage. It is said to have dramatically improved production efficiency. Picture shows one of the twin Hardaker edge sewing systems installed at Ratcliffe Bros blanket factory. Input continuous blanket is fed from the left, where it is automatically folded, sewn on two edges simultaneously, gathered and layered on to the output pallet (right), ready for cutting to length.

Government sales

Ministry of Defence
Miscellaneous stores

3 and 4 November 1976

Location
Auctioneer's premises

Auctioneers
Woolland Son and Manico (Dept L), Kinterbury House, St Andrew's Cross, Plymouth PL1 2DQ (tel. 0752 69292)

Stores lying at various depots in the west country including greatcoats, raincoats, blankets, footwear, tentage and other clothing and textiles. A large quantity of chairs, tables, bookcases and other furniture. Diesel gen sets, fork lift side loader, Bedford and other engines, Morris saloon car and many other interesting items.

9 November 1976

Location
Ordnance Storage and Disposal Depot, Ruddington, Nottinghamshire

Auctioneers
Arnold and Son, 'Modwena House', (Dept L), 13 Market Place, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 1HD (tel. 0283 64657 and 8)

Stores lying at various depots including a large quantity of general household furniture. MT electrical and electronic spares and equipment, aircraft components and ground equipment, various textiles and zips, scrap metals, wooden and metal boxes, vehicle tyres, engineering tools and equipment, binoculars, cameras, photographic materials, cable, batteries, small quantity vehicles, surveying equipment, etc.

Catalogues which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc., are available from the appropriate auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 20p postage and packing 10p extra (postal orders only).

Wembley Auction Sales 1975/76

2 November 1976

View Days:	Day preceding and morning of sale
Location:	Department of the Environment Property Services Agency Supplies Store India Pavilion Exhibition Grounds Wembley, Middx. Tel. 01-903 2508
Description of Goods:	Office and Miscellaneous Furniture Engineering, Electrical, Canteen, Domestic and Other Equipment
Auctioneers:	Messrs. Fuller, Horsey, Sons and Cassell 52 Bow Lane London EC4M 9ET Tel. 01-248 7954
Catalogue:	Direct from the auctioneer price 10p each

Potential buyers are advised to refer to the official catalogue available direct from the auctioneers price 10p.

ENCIRCLE TI 232 ON PAGE 263 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Home exhibitions

Fourth Oceanology International for 1978

The 4th Oceanology International Exhibition takes place at Brighton from 5 to 10 March 1978. The exhibition is being staged in the Metropole Exhibition Centre, which will have available about 160,000 sq ft (1,490m²) of floor space, and a conference, running concurrently, will take place in the new National Conference Centre which is being built nearby.

The emphasis of CI 78 will be on hardware and developments covering exploration, field development and production activities. Exhibits will include instruments and services for the recovery of offshore oil and gas, minerals, underwater operations of all kinds, equipment from the civil, mechanical and marine engineering industries, geophysical, oceanographic and meteorological monitoring equipment, data collecting and processing equipment.

Held every three years, Oceanology International has grown in size and scope since the first event in February 1969, also at Brighton. The 1975 event attracted more than 300 participants, of whom 88 were from 11 overseas countries. Visitors to that year's show exceeded 20,000 and came from 52 countries; delegates to the conference that year came from 32 countries.

A dozen overseas groups of ministers and top-level officials visited the 1975 show and more are expected in 1978. Facilities are being extended, including North Sea operational visits.

Oceanology International is supported by the British government, by the British Oceanology Development Council and by the Oceanology International Advisory Committee.

Inquiries: BPS Exhibitions Ltd, 4 Seaford Court, 220-22 Great Portland Street, London W1N 5HH.

Wembley conference centre completed

Aerial view of the new circular Wembley conference centre, with Wembley Stadium in the background. Bookings for more than 1,000 days of conferences and exhibitions have already been taken. The new centre, less than 10km from central London, forms part of a complex that includes the stadium, music and squash centres, an international swimming pool and sports arena, a 330-bedroom hotel, office blocks and car parks. The circular main auditorium of the conference centre will seat 2,700 and five lecture theatres accommodate between 100 and 650. There are smaller rooms suitable for seminars and well-equipped exhibition areas of about 3,000m². Simultaneous multi-lingual interpreting is available in eight languages.

New products

High performance synthesised signal generator

A new 50kHz to 520MHz high performance synthesised signal generator, designed to combine the accuracy and stability of a synthesiser with the spectral purity associated with the very best signal generator, has been announced by Marconi Instruments Ltd – a GEC-Marconi Electronics company. The new generator, TF 2020, has full am and fm facilities, a stability better than 1 in 10^8 per day, very low noise, spurious signals better than 90dB down, 20Hz to 99kHz internal modulation oscillator, frequency deviation from 0 to 300kHz and amplitude modulation to 99 per cent. All of these functions can be controlled manually by front panel switches or remotely through parallel bcd control. These features, together with very low leakage and a wide output range (from 0.2 microvolts to 4 volts emf) make the instrument ideal for research and design work in the laboratory as well as for quality control and testing in production and service organisations.

Servicing applications

In the production or servicing applications the synthesised signal generator can be controlled by a test jig – a single box of diodes and wires connected to a series of switches so that each switch will set up all of the functions of the generator for one particular measurement. The instrument can be programmed by a desk top calculator or built into automatic computer controlled test system.

The instrument is designed particularly to meet the needs of the manufacturer of fixed and mobile receivers ranging from lf and mf types right through to vhf and uhf. However its low noise and high accuracy make it suitable for a wide range of other applications including pure research and calibration.

Horizontal compactor to cut waste collection costs

The principal aim of the new Columbus Dixon W10 horizontal waste compactor for heavy industrial and commercial use is to effect savings in the cost of waste collection.

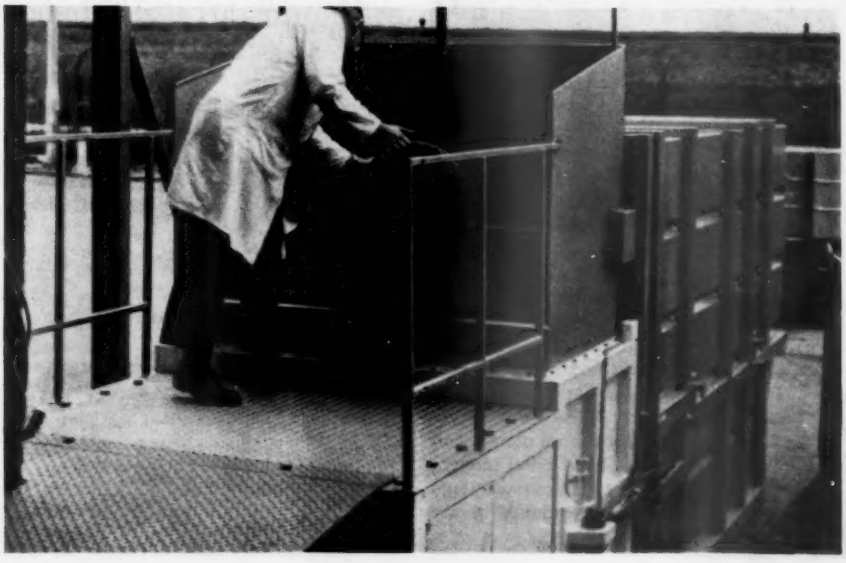
Bulky waste material and unseparated refuse is thrown or fed into the large charge box. Under a compaction force of 22 tons exerted by a 10 hp motor, this is then hydraulically rammed and compacted into an adjacent steel compactor container, the type and size used depending on the nature and volume of the waste. These containers have capacities ranging from 10 to 40 cubic yards.

Cut-out switch

Standard specifications include a lidded hopper fitted with 'cut-out' switch which automatically stops the machine when the lid is raised.

Columbus Dixon claim that for a company generating more than 40 cubic yards of refuse weekly, the W10 horizontal compactor, properly used, should prove a self-liquidating investment. For example, if 100 cubic yards of loose waste has to be disposed of weekly by means of 20 cubic yard open skips, installation of a W10 compressing at 4:1 ratio into a 35 cubic yard compactor container could mean that waste collections would be cut from five a week to one.

Using the Columbus Dixon waste compactor.



Protection for potato crops

BXL Plastazote foamed polyethylene is now available in kit form as a means of protecting potatoes from drop damage when crops are being handled on trailers. This application of Plastazote, say Bakelite Xylonite Ltd, prevents bruising and splitting of potatoes to give optimum yields for growers.

The Potato Marketing Board is also currently assessing Plastazote for similar applications on potato handling machinery. It regards Plastazote as offering considerable scope in such end uses. Besides being an excellent protective material, it can be fitted to a grading line wherever potatoes have to be dropped.

Lower rate of wear

In experimental use on washing, grading, and pre-packing lines at the board's Sutton Bridge, Lincolnshire, establishment, Plastazote has demonstrated a considerably lower rate of wear than rubber – which normally has to be renewed three times a year. No visible signs of deterioration have yet appeared and the material's service life in potato handling uses is expected to be substantial. It has been shown that Plastazote enables potatoes to be dropped from heights above 13 in without significant increase in damage levels.

Interlocking linkage

The new Plastazote kits are available for 3-3½ and 4 tonne and 4½-5 tonne trailers. The sheets of Plastazote are supplied cut-to-size and fit together with a special interlocking linkage system. They are suitable for use with a wide range of crops in addition to potatoes.

Marketing and distribution for this area has been arranged through West Midlands Farmers' Association Ltd.

Plastazote foamed polyethylene is manufactured by BXL Expanded Rubber and Plastics Division, Croydon.

New 'big-valve' actuator – for large pipeline

A new valve actuator to cater for the economic motorisation of very large pipeline and similar valves, has been added to the Syncropak range manufactured by Rotork Controls Ltd, Bath, Avon.

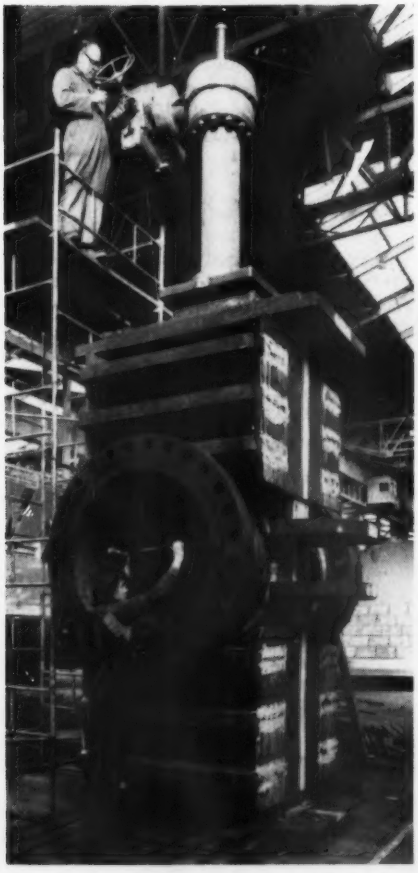
The new, 91AR actuator, is a development of the 90A Syncropak and has been designed to provide the increased speed and power necessary to optimise the use of the high-gearing normally fitted to very big gate valves. Because the torque required to operate such valves is far beyond the capability of one or two men, they are customarily fitted with compound bevel-gear operators. In applying electric motorisation to them, it is clearly more economic if some or all of this gearing can be used.

Rotork believe that this approach – using a side-mounted actuator driving through an existing (or even when it has to be specially provided) gear operator – has several advantages over the alternative method of a much larger, top-mounting actuator which itself contains all the necessary gearing.

The benefits claimed for the side-mounting approach include: valve can be manually operated before fitting the actuator, ie regardless of timing of actuator delivery to site and electrical installation; manual operation through the handwheel of the side-mounted actuator is likely to be considerably more efficient than through one that is top-mounted – particularly if the handwheel drive of the latter relies solely on the relative low-efficiency of the actuator worm gearing; smaller, lighter actuator and, though the total weight with gearbox may be more than an integral top-mounted unit, easier site handling through sub-division of weights; economy of actuator sizing through higher efficiency, and possible economies of quantity buying where the same gearbox is to be used for non-motorised valves as well.

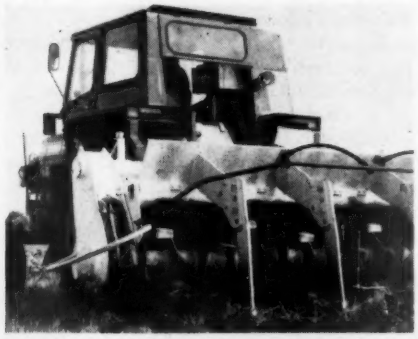
However, using this method the actuator needs to operate at a higher than normal speed to achieve an acceptably fast operating time through the gearing – typically six to 12 turns per minute of the valve stem nut. The new 91AR, therefore, while utilising the same gearing as the 90A, has an enlarged motor housing and worm shaft, to provide for the additional power.

Typical application for Rotork's new 91AR actuator: this 46 in pipeline valve undergoing test at the Stockton Works of Whessoe Ltd.

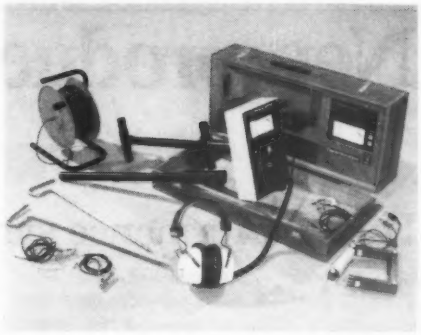


Challenging the plough's supremacy

This new high speed rotary digger – with its claimed capability of a high work rate even in soil conditions normally barred to the traditional plough or even a chisel plough – has been developed by the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering. The principle on which the digger works is the use of the



power take off from the tractor to cultivate the soil rather than the tractive effort with its inherent wheel slip problems and damage to the soil. The result is a modified form of rotary cultivator with an arrangement of special ejector tines that are designed to maintain the rotor speeds and to anchor the machine at work in extremes of wet or hard soil conditions. The digger can also be used with relatively low-powered tractors. It will shortly be produced commercially by Howard Rotavators Ltd. Extensive tests at the Institute and on commercial farms have confirmed that the work rate of the rotary digger is double that of the conventional plough and almost identical to that of the chisel plough, but with the added advantages of low energy requirements and high performance in the most adverse conditions.



New cable locator

A new, dual-function, cable locating instrument has been added to the range of electronic sub-surface survey equipment manufactured by Electrolocation Ltd. Instruments in the range already provide for the location of drains, pipes and radiating power or communications cables. The new GRP 404 cable locator has been designed with the electricity supply industry particularly in mind and combines facilities for tracing radiating and non-radiating power cables. There are optional extras for phase-identity checking and for imparting a signal to individual cables without the need to isolate for direct connection.

New equalising video distribution amplifier

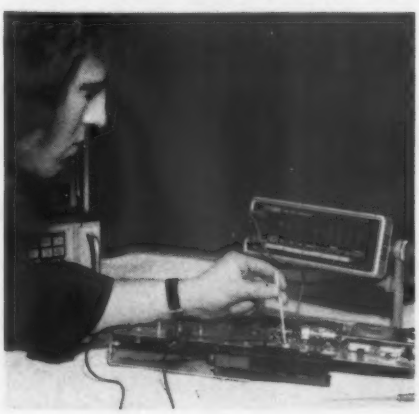
Prowest Electronics Ltd, Windsor, has introduced a new equalising video distribution amplifier Type 232/4. It is a self-powered six output unit with built-in variable cable equalisation developed from its established Type 232 amplifier.

New features include an improved input stage which gives better return loss and an improved output stage which not only gives cooler operation but enables the unit to handle 4-volt pulses.

Accessories include a dual housing for mounting one or two amplifiers and a fully wired 19-in rack frame for up to nine units.

The price of the Type 232/4 is the same as its predecessor – £80 ex works.

Improved video distribution amplifier under test at Prowest Electronics Ltd, Windsor.



Versatile forklift

A 2-ton forklift for rough terrain work has been developed by Winget Ltd, of Rochester. Their model 4FL 5000 is claimed to combine the versatility of an atriculated chassis with a powerful, four-wheel drive and a reach of up to 18 ft high.

Winget say the new forklift meets the demands of most building and construction sites. With the standard 18 ft mast plus special load extender, the 4FL 5000 can collect palletised materials or skips from difficult access points, and deliver up to first storey height. A 21 ft triplex mast reaching second storey levels, without a load extender, is also available.

The 2-ton pay load covers the needs of most site work, while the pivot steer system ensures accurate, fast positioning for pick-up and delivery. The long, wide wheelbase gives maximum stability even with the maximum 5,000 lb load.

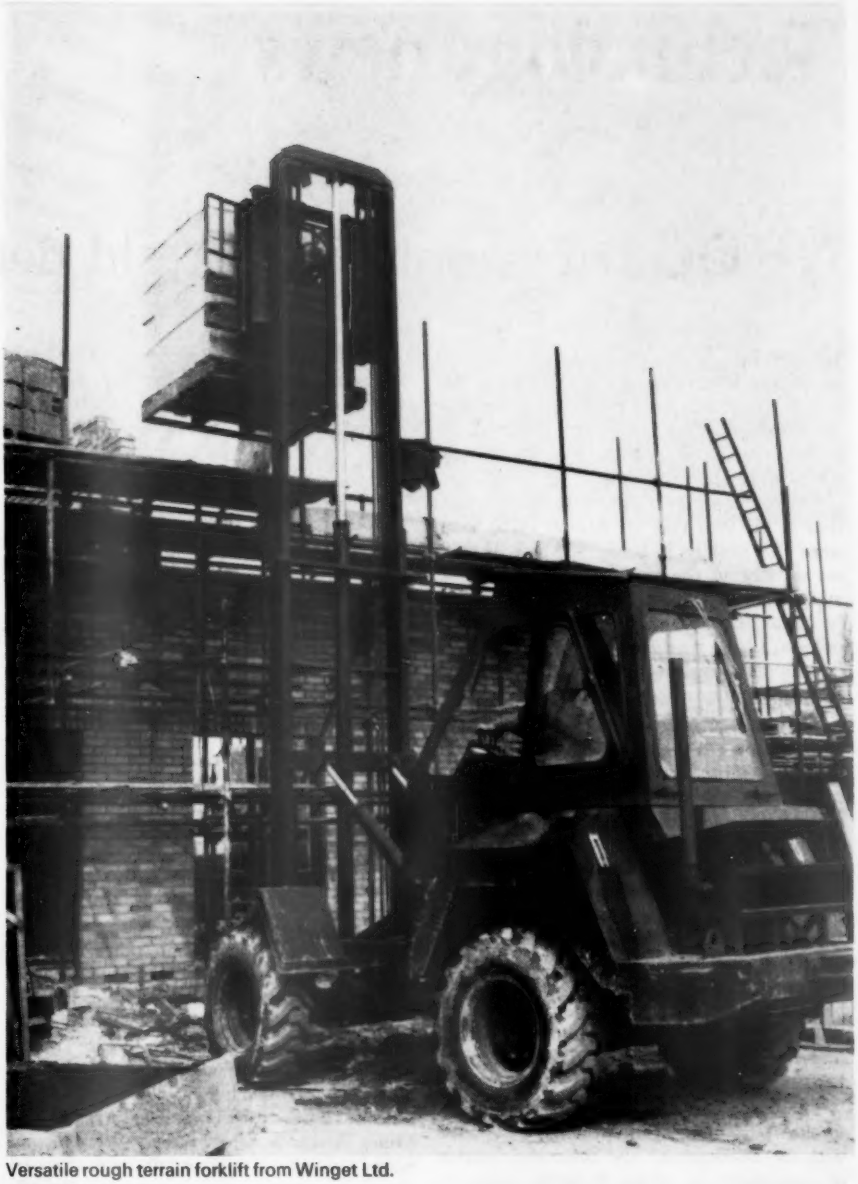
The 45.3 hp air-cooled, Lister diesel engine drives a heavy-duty gear box with five speeds in both directions. All four wheels have fully floating drive axles and hub-mounted double reduction gears.

For efficient braking the Winget system features totally enclosed multiplate brakes on each axle, running in oil. They are operated by a dual-line hydraulic system and backed up by a disc caliper brake on the transmission, controlled by the handbrake.

Full steering lock gives a turning circle of only 29 ft, with all wheels tracking. This is made possible by the fully-hydrostatic pivot-steer system (manual control functions automatically when the power is switched off).

The mast comprises heavy extruded steel sections fitted with two, double-acting tilt cylinders, a single-acting lift ram and double lift chains. It is available in an 18 ft duplex version or a 21 ft triplex version.

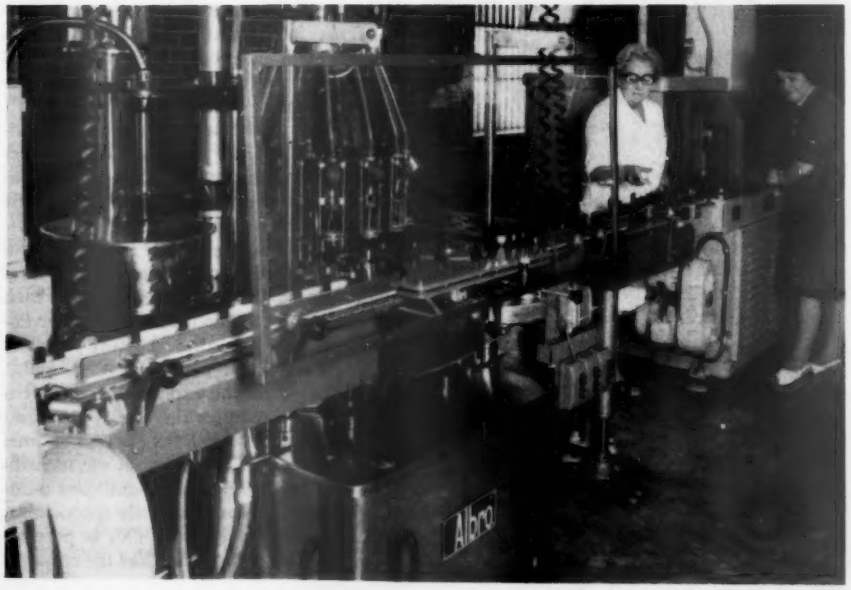
Optional equipment includes a fully-enclosed cab, crane jib attachment, bottom discharge skip, hydraulic bucket and 4 ft caliper load extender (maximum 1 ton on 18 ft mast).



Versatile rough terrain forklift from Winget Ltd.

Machine fills 100 miniature bottles per minute

A 14-head vacuum filling machine (right) at the Leith premises of the Drambuie Liqueur Co Ltd for filling miniature bottles at 100 per minute. The machine was manufactured by Albro Fillers and Engineering Co Ltd, Ponders End, Middlesex. It is shown in conjunction with a Sanitair DS8 air cleaning machine manufactured by Morgan Fairest Ltd, Sheffield.



Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

Technology news

NRDC wipes out 27-year old deficit

Investment in new and existing industrial development projects by the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) has doubled in the past year from £2.51 million to £5.55 million and its 27-year deficit has been wiped out.

The corporation's annual report* reveals that at the year end (31 March 1976) there were 158 projects in being, of which 37 were set up during the year. The total amount authorised in respect of all the projects in being at the end of the year was £22.78 million. Levies received during the year from development projects rose from £0.96 million to £1.20 million.

Major new projects

During the year the corporation set up a number of major new projects including: reclamation and disposal of liquid wastes: Waste Incineration Ltd; offshore crane: Stothert and Pitt Ltd; industrial space heating and cooling system: Constant Air Systems Ltd; talking books for the blind: Clarke and Smith Industries Ltd; diecast tube fitting; John Guest (Southern) Ltd. In addition, further substantial support was provided by the corporation for a number of existing development projects, including underwater operations with Vickers Oceanics Ltd.

The corporation has traditionally referred to that part of its work which is concerned with the development and commercialisation of inventions in which it owns rights as 'exploitation'.

There were 208 exploitation projects involving development expenditure by the corporation in being at the end of the year (compared with 190 last year); 45 of these were new projects established in the year. The total amount authorised during the year for expenditure on these projects was £2.86 million, compared with £1.79 million last year. The total authorised expenditure on all the projects in being at the end of the year amounted to £21.29 million.

New exploitation projects involving development expenditure set up during the year included: high-speed lightweight minimally cooled diesel engines: University of Southampton; fume incinerators based on rotary fluidised combustion: University of Aston in Birmingham/Fluidfire Development Ltd.

Additional development expenditure was authorised during the year in respect of a number of existing projects including: monocrystalline gallium phosphide: Metals Research Ltd; HM.5 sidewall hovercraft: Hovermarine Transport Ltd; electrochemical metal winning: Ecological Engineering Ltd.

Licence agreements

Licence income increased again this year to £11.71 million from £9.04 million last year. Of this sum £3.37 million (last year £2.17 million) was subsequently paid to inventors and inventing sources under revenue sharing agreements or by way of awards to some government inventors. Foreign-currency earnings rose from £7.19 million last year to £9.52 million, the bulk of this being in US dollars.

At the end of the year 536 licence agreements were in force, of which 107 were with firms overseas. The figures at the end of the previous year were 521 and 95, respectively.

The corporation's major licence revenue earners, together with the sources of the inventions, are: alkali-resistant glass fibre: Building Research Station (Department of the Environment); carbon fibres: Royal Aircraft Establishment (Ministry of Defence); cephalosporin antibiotics: University of Oxford/Medical Research Council; cholesterol assay: Clinical Research Centre (Medical Research Council); dental cement: University of Manchester; detector for combustible gases (methanometer): Safety in Mines Research Establishment (Health and Safety Executive); pole-amplitude-modulated electric motors: University of Bristol; pyrethroid insecticides: Rothamsted Experimental Station (Agricultural Research Council); selective weedkillers: Wye College (University of London)/Agricultural Research Council; virus culture medium (hamster cell line): University of Edinburgh/Medical Research Council.

While the cephalosporin antibiotics continue to dominate the corporation's revenue-earning inventions, representing an innovation of world-wide importance to the pharmaceutical industry and to medicine, it is important to emphasise that innovations of this type arise only occasionally in any area of technology. Also, the period required to reach and achieve the exploitation of such inventions necessarily extends over many years.

The creation and continuity of a viable business based on the exploitation of inventions therefore requires the ability to maintain a steady effort over a long period of time. Ultimate success will depend on the identification and exploitation of a significant number of goods, but not necessarily spectacular, revenue-earning inventions. This is particularly true for an organisation like the corporation, which also provides a public service to inventing sources. The establishment of an adequate level of business must take time but the corporation is coming closer to achieving this target.

The corporation's portfolio of inventions has now reached the stage at which the earliest of its significant revenue earners such as tri-iodo thyronine (the active form of the thyroxine hormone) and selective weed killers (MCPB and 2:4 DB), which have either ceased, or are about to cease, earning owing to the expiry of the patent protection, are being replaced by other successful inventions. The overall income from the middle-range section of the portfolio is still increasing annually.

The total number of patents and patent applications held by the corporation fell, however, from 6,508 to 5,754 during the year under review. The number of patent rights assigned to the corporation also fell, from 225 last year to 157. These figures reflect a policy of abandoning patent rights which no longer appear to have reasonable commercial prospects and of applying more rigorous criteria when deciding initially whether to take assignment.

During the year, 717 inventions were submitted for assessment by private inventors, representing an increase of 10 per cent over last year; in addition about 650 inquiries from individuals were received.

The corporation has this year secured a surplus amounting to £1.30 million after tax against a comparable figure of £0.84 million last year. Operating income rose by £3.14 million to £13.29 million, mostly owing to a further rise in licence revenue. Expenditure for the year, excluding interest charges, was £9.51 million, up £2.15 million on last year. This increase reflects the larger total sum paid to inventors under revenue sharing agreements. Interest payable on loans from the Department of Industry was slightly reduced at £1.47 million and the residual interest relief grant remained at £0.43 million. The provision for corporation tax in respect of this year's surplus amounts to £2.42 million against £1.70 last year.

The corporation's overall deficit, which it has carried for its full 27 years and which last year stood at £0.34 million has now been eliminated and this year we have been able to carry forward a net surplus on the income and expenditure account of £0.97 million.

Actual expenditure on development during the year rose to £4.14 million compared with £3.17 million last year. Forward commitment on all development projects at the end of the year was £8.50 million against £7.40 million last year.

* Twenty-seventh Annual Report and Statement of Accounts 1975-76, NRDC, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria St, London SW1E 6SL.

Harwell's automobile exhaust control unit (left). The unit is made of Fecralloy steel coated with a platinum-based catalyst. Independent durability tests show that both the catalyst and its Fecralloy substrate will operate satisfactorily for over 50,000 road miles. Right: fitting the unit to a 1.8 litre Marina at Ricardo Consulting Engineers test laboratory at Shoreham.

New alloys for world markets

A new family of corrosion-resistant steels, developed at Harwell, is now being produced in commercial quantities by the steel industry, and a British company, Resistalloy Ltd, has been established in Sheffield to develop and market these steels. Known as 'Fecralloy' steels, these materials have many potential applications, particularly as a catalyst support for automobile exhaust systems.

Fecralloy steels represent a special type of stainless steel containing chromium, alumimium and small amounts of yttrium. The new steels are resistant to corrosion at high temperatures because of a protective and tenacious skin of alumina which forms on their surfaces. They were first conceived for use in nuclear reactors, but Harwell scientists took the development further and discovered how to produce steel on a laboratory scale and then how to turn it into a variety of products, including thin strip.

In a collaborative programme between Harwell and a group of companies (with major funding from the Chemical and Mineral Requirements Board of the Department of Industry) the laboratory-scale production process has been scaled up 300-fold. Ingots weighing up to 1½ tonnes can now be produced. From these, various semi-finished products have now been made, including wire and 0.002 inch thick strip.

Harwell has licensed Resistalloy Ltd to manufacture Fecralloy steels and sell them worldwide, while Johnson Matthey has been licensed to use Fecralloy steels in the making of catalytic systems for the treatment of car exhaust gases to minimise atmospheric pollution. A wholly-owned subsidiary of Johnson Matthey Ltd – Matthey Bishop Inc of Pennsylvania – will exploit catalytic applications in the US market.

A team from Harwell and Resistalloy Ltd will be visiting the USA next week to support Johnson Matthey and Matthey Bishop in their marketing and production programmes.

Harwell, both alone and in collaboration with Johnson Matthey and Ricardo and Co, Engineers Ltd, have carried out extensive engine testing programmes, including prolonged road trials and major manufacturers in the world are already carrying out similar tests.

Commercial inquiries to: Michael Cabell, Building 329, Harwell, Oxfordshire OX11 0RA, tel: (0235) 24141, ext. 2476.

Post driver extractor

The need for a rapid agricultural fence post driver and extractor led the National Engineering Laboratory to develop a new device. In essence this unit is a double-acting hammer which can be arranged by simple manual setting of two hand-valves on the body of the unit to hammer posts in or hammer posts out. In the prototype the post is clamped by means of a conventional bolt. However in more advanced units where continuous post extraction is required a hydraulic clamp may be fitted.

Typical operating frequency is five blows per second and the unit operates on oil pressure. Entirely self-contained and rugged in construction, it is designed for mounting on any light vehicle where a suitable hydraulic supply is available.

The unit also proves a design principle which can be applied to any size of pile driver to permit rapid driving or extraction. Such a universal machine would be larger than the prototype and would find particular application in the driving and extracting of sheet piles.

One modification which has been suggested is the attachment of a remote valving system which will allow the mode of operation of the tool to be altered by a remote operator. The operator would then be able to drive or extract posts and to alter the set of the posts without stopping the machine or approaching it. This would be especially suitable for operators engaged in sheet pile driving where the larger version of the machine would be inaccessible, being supported by a crane on the top of the sheet pile. Being able to drive or extract would be particularly advantageous in the sheet pile situation where one compact machine will be instantly available for either driving or extracting.

Manufacture of the prototype and development tests have been completed at the National Engineering Laboratory, East Kilbride.

Manufacturers are now sought to produce and market this unit or larger units under licence from NEL.

The fence post extractor being demonstrated at the National Engineering Laboratory, East Kilbride.

Model of a Royal Danish Navy corvette made to 1 : 40 scale by BAC in order to assess the performance of the vessels' proposed antenna system.

Danish naval antenna system assessed in British test chamber

British Aircraft Corporation's anechoic test chamber at Bristol – one of the largest and best equipped in Europe, which simulates the conditions of free-space – has been used in trials to assess the performance of a proposed antenna system for a new Royal Danish Navy corvette now under construction. The work was carried out under contract to Y-Ard Consultants Ltd designers of the corvette.

For the tests a 1 : 40 scale model of the ship was built and by calculating the HF and UHF frequencies accordingly the radiation patterns from the antennas were accurately measured using the fully automated computer controlled anechoic chamber. The resulting measurements enabled the antenna positions on the corvette to be optimised and the radio frequency interactions between the antennas to be analysed in detail at a very early stage, so preventing costly alterations.

BAC electromagnetically modelled all the antennas which comprise the system, and all antenna characteristics were measured – gain level, radiation pattern and impedance.

The model corvette was constructed in wood and plastic and coated in copper foil to provide the necessary high conductivity. Scale modelling of the antennas in every minor detail was not practical but care was taken to ensure that the models adopted the same electrical principles as the real antennas so that the performance at the scaled frequencies would be comparable. For example, brass rods were fashioned to represent HF telescopic whip antennas and by dipping them into an etching solution and slowly withdrawing them in a series of steps they were made to correspond in shape to the taper of a full size whip antenna. At 1 : 40 scale they became no more than a hairs breadth at their extremity.

The radiation patterns at the scaled HF frequencies were measured on the BAC outside test range at Bristol. The ship model was mounted on an azimuth turntable located in a shallow pit so that the surface of the table top on which it stood was at ground level. The sea was represented by a very large groundplane of wire mesh. In measuring the patterns, RF signals were transmitted via the ship antennas to a remote receiving system whose antenna could be raised and lowered to provide elevation pattern measurements.

Instead of routine dry-docking, the Norwegian owned VLCCs *Jastella* and *Jarabella* have both successfully completed detailed hull surveys while the vessels remained afloat. This was achieved using 'Scan' a remotely controlled underwater survey system, launched in Las Palmas last year by the Underwater Maintenance company of Southampton. Approved by Lloyd's Register and the American Bureau of Shipping, the technique is now recognised by Det Norske Veritas. The Scan vehicle systematically traverses the hull under remote control from the surface, carrying two high resolution tv cameras which present long-distance and close-up views of the hull simultaneously. The entire flat bottom area of a VLCC measuring up to 350m by 50m can be covered in about three hours.

New instrumentation study team

The Control Engineering Group of the Department of Industry's Computers, Systems and Electronics Requirements Board has set up a small instrumentation study team. Its objective is to identify trends affecting the process instrumentation industry and recommend what the department's research and development strategy should be up to 1985. The team has started work and has been asked to report back within six months.

The department has commissioned the SIRA Institute to prepare background information for the study team's consideration. The institute will seek information from companies and organisations as part of this work. This information will be considered separately from any individual submissions which the team receive.

Any organisations, companies or individuals who wish to make representations to the study team are invited to do so as soon as possible. They are asked to write to the secretary of the team, Mr D. P. Prosser, Department of Industry, Room 305, Dean Bradley House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AG (tel. 01-212 6660). The team may then wish to invite the authors to discuss their views with them. All written and verbal commercial submissions to the team will be treated as confidential.

The terms of reference of the team are to: consider industrial and technological trends in process instruments up to the year 1985; determine future needs for R and D for process instruments to meet these needs; determine the consequences of these trends and needs on the structure of the instrument industry; report their findings within six

months to the CSERB Control Engineering Group with recommendation for action by the department and other organisations; an interim report is to be presented by the end of 1976.

The scope of the study is to include process instrumentation of a specialist type but not scientific, test or measuring instruments.

Study team members are: Mr R. Shaw, ICI (chairman); Dr P. Duncomb, TI Research Laboratories; Mr R. Fischbacher, GEC-Elliott Process Automation Ltd; Mr G. L. Fraser, Foxboro-Yoxall Ltd; Mr R. Thomason, Department of Electronics and Control Engineering, Cranfield Institute of Technology; Mr D. P. Prosser, Department of Industry, (secretary).

Pressure vessel integrity

A study group headed by Dr Walter Marshall, deputy chairman of the UK Atomic Energy Authority and Chief Scientist at the Department of Energy, has concluded that it is now satisfied about the safety of pressure vessels for any light-water reactor of the pressurised water reactor type built in this country.

In an extended summary of the full report which has now been published, the study group note that in the course of the reactor policy discussions which took place in 1974 concern was expressed in relation to whether the pressure vessel of a PWR type which contains the nuclear core could fail catastrophically. This issue was highlighted in a memorandum submitted by Sir Alan Cottrell, then Government Chief Scientific Adviser, to the Select Committee on Science and Technology in January 1974. In November 1973 the chairman of the UKAEA, Sir John Hill, had asked Dr Marshall to set up a study group of experts to examine the factors determining the integrity of such vessels, and to prepare a balanced and objective review of the subject; it was later agreed that the report of the study group would be submitted to the Chief Inspector of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) in the United Kingdom. This has now been done.

Dr Marshall writes: 'The fact that it has taken us a long time to reach some firm conclusions on this subject is, I think, in itself a major justification of your original viewpoint. The simple fact was, ..., that the UK did not know sufficient about this technology.... However, we have now completed our studies and we fully understand the large amount of work that has been done on this subject, primarily in America but also in Germany, France and Japan. In addition, we have completed a large number of calculations of our own, and we have come to a unanimous conclusion that satisfactory answers to your questions can be provided. Of course, the Nuclear Inspector would have a large number of other factors to take into account before arriving at an overall view on whether these reactors could be licensed in the UK.'

Dr Marshall says he is personally satisfied that this is a subject where there has been a genuine and substantial evolution of understanding, and improvement in design and fabrication methods, in recent years. The

Using a model of the boiler tubes, the effects of the high temperatures needed for the advanced gas cooled reactor are studied at the Central Electricity Research Laboratories in Leatherhead. In the AGR boilers, the feedwater is heated to boiling point, converted to steam and superheated; the 2,000 tubes need to withstand temperatures of over 600 degrees C. As the tubes are made from three different kinds of steel, mild steel, chromium steel and stainless steel, there are risks of stress corrosion and possible oxidation of the chrome. While these problems are being solved, results of the laboratory tests provide station operators with a more detailed analysis of water temperature and distribution.

Taking the lid off underwater wells

Extracting oil from the sea at depths of over 200m calls for wellheads on the bottom of the ocean. This means drilling the well and then plugging it with a cap. The well then has to be 'uncapped' and the oil pumped to the surface or through pipelines to the shore. This unmanned submersible, which can go down to 370m, has television cameras as its 'eyes' and specially designed grabs which enable it to carry out this task and can be operated by one man from the safety of a mother ship. Underground Location Services Ltd of Stonehouse, Glos, say that its first real work will be bedding-in an oil pipeline from one of the North Sea oilfields to the Orkney Islands.

Isolated gas pockets in the tanks of oil carriers can be a danger, but this new emergency life support apparatus (Elsa) helps to provide some protection. If a gas-laden or oxygen-deficient atmosphere is entered, an alarm sounds. The wearer can quickly pull a plastic hood over his face and release his air supply, gaining time to repair to a safe area. Elsa is a compressed air breathing set which lasts for at least six minutes. Consisting of a lightweight jacket, air cylinder and oxygen alarm meter, the apparatus is made by Sabre Safety Ltd., of Aldershot.

study group still see a substantial opportunity for further work to increase their confidence in the safety of these vessels.

Sir Alan Cottrell in his letter of reply says that if the recommendations made in the report are applied 'fully and rigorously, then I accept your general conclusions about the reliability of such vessels in the initial period of service, although the attainment of the necessary standards will be possible only in engineering and operational organisations of outstanding technical excellence . . .'

The summary of the report is of 156 pages; it differs from the full report only in that the study group have removed some detailed technical arguments and some proprietary information. However, the conclusions, recommendations and qualifications contained in the full report are reproduced exactly. The document is being made available through the Stationery Office, at a price of £3.50.

Cheaper solar energy cells

Scientists at Dundee University have made a discovery which could help make large scale solar energy conversion economically viable. Led by Professor Walter Spear, the team has found the cheapest way yet of producing the special conductors used in turning sunlight into power.

Until now, solar energy cells have been made by slicing carefully grown silicon crystals – an expensive process made even more costly on a large scale because the crystalline nature of the product limits its size and the cells cost more to make than the value of the energy they produce. Now, the Dundee team has developed a method of depositing an amorphous, or non-crystalline, film of silicon on glass which, they say, should be suitable for cheap, large area electronic devices.

'An area of one square mile of our semiconductors should have an output equivalent to one of the smaller power stations,' says Professor Spear. 'We have been working on the problem for about seven years, but it is only recently that we have discovered a method of controlling their electrical properties and this has opened up new and promising possibilities, not only for solar energy conversion but also for large area displays.'

The work of the Dundee physicists has already stimulated considerable interest throughout the world, particularly the United States, where several companies, including the giant RCA and IBM, have begun to develop amorphous devices using the Scottish technique.

'I believe that amorphous semiconductors will prove highly competitive in the field of large area technology,' says Professor Spear. 'One possible application is that within the next ten years we could see a television set so thin that it could be hung on the wall like a picture'.

'Whether we shall see large scale solar energy power stations in the future,' he adds, 'depends on many factors, including the progress made in other methods of energy conversion such as wave power. Nevertheless, I think the technique we have developed in Dundee is the key to an exciting alternative source of power which has none of the environmental problems associated with nuclear installations.'

A working model of Hero's aeolipyle shown in the new film 'Man the Inventor' made by Perkins Engines of Peterborough. Although Hero demonstrated the pressure of steam, it was some 1,700 years before practical forms of early steam engine evolved. The film explores the development of motive power and has been produced in English, French, Arabic and Spanish.

Separating oil and water

A new single system process for separating oil and water has been introduced by the pollution control systems organisation of ICI.

Known as Flofoil, the new system can, it is claimed, in one simple process reduce concentrations of oil in water by more than 99 per cent, treating high volumes of effluent at low running costs.

It depends on the coalescing media which have special surface properties: the oil droplets are captured, and as they migrate through the media, they coalesce into larger droplets; their release on the other side is controlled so that they do not break up, as often happens with other systems, but rapidly rise to the surface to form a continuous layer which is easily removed.

The media are easily installed, and the process can be used either alone, as an ancillary to upgrade an existing oil separation system or with other products.

In just a few minutes, ICI claim, the process can reduce an oil water mixture containing 1,000 ppm oil, as at an oil refinery, down to 1 ppm oil – a solution which meets all known international standards.

Existing gravity separators are designed to treat droplets above 60 microns (0.06mm). By using the different forms of Flofoil media developed so far, progressively smaller sizes of droplet can be removed, and in this way a system can be tailored to solve individual problems.

Increasingly stringent anti-pollution standards being imposed by local water authorities and international maritime bodies are making separation necessary.

Seminar on privacy and the computer

To stimulate interest in the safety of personal data held on computer files the Computing Services Association and the Institute of Personnel Management are holding a one-day seminar at the London Hilton Hotel on 11 November.

'Personnel, Privacy and Computers' will bring together five leading authorities on the impending legislation (spelled out in the government white paper 'Computers and Privacy' issued last December) to explain the obligations which will be placed on organisations which maintain personal data on computer files.

Tickets at £80 (£60 to members of the CSA and IPM) are available from the Computing Services Association, Craven House, 121 Kingsway, London WC2B 6PG.

Oysters suspended

An oyster farm in a remote Western Isles sea loch has introduced a new process which, because of the unpolluted, sheltered waters could turn the area into one of the world's major fish farming centres.

The development, Maricult Flotation Ltd, was set up three years ago on the almost deserted shores of Lochroistean, near Uig on the west coast of the Island of Lewis, by Charles Gerrard. He is confident that his process – replacing the traditional method of growing shellfish on the seabed – will be a world leader in more productive oyster farming.

'Under the traditional method of oyster farming,' says Mr Gerrard, 'up to 30 per cent of the crop could be lost through falling victim to predators or disease. With my system, they are not on the seabed but are suspended in the water. What is unique is that each oyster is attached to a small plastic arm with a special adhesive.

'Each arm is then fastened to a metal rod and the rod, carrying 350 oysters, is placed vertically in a flotation raft which is capable of taking up to 16,000. The result is that each oyster has its own living space, is safer from most predators, and disease and damage to shell growth, quite common on the seabed, is overcome.'

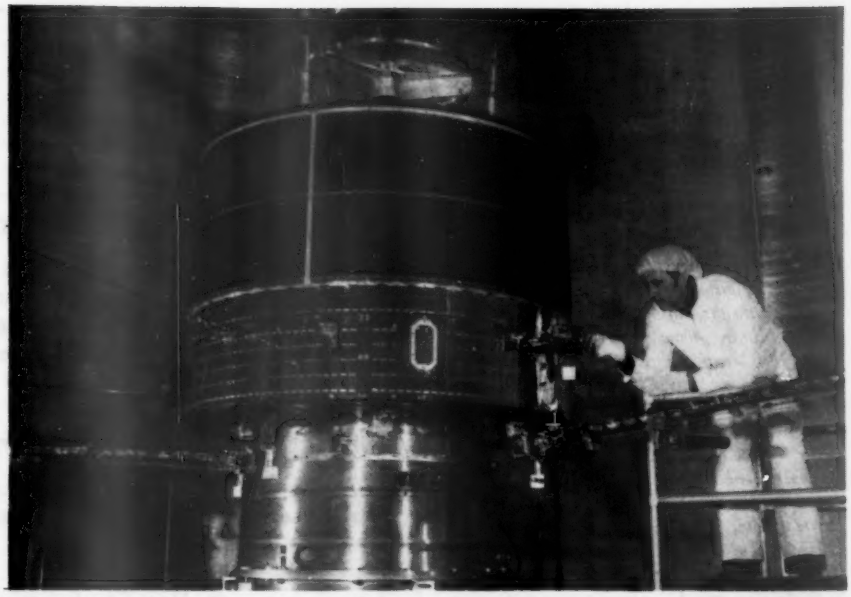
Maricult now have 800,000 oysters at the flotation raft stage and another 300,000 due to go on to the rods later this year. It is the culmination of a process that involves buying in oysters less than 5mm long from hatcheries on the mainland, keeping them in tanks filled with water from the loch till they are about 10mm, then setting them out in trays in the sea until they grow to about 25mm when they are transferred to the rods.

The oysters get no artificial feeding, so the amount of natural food in the sea is very important to a successful harvest. The Western Isles, says Charles Gerrard, are ideal because the water is rich in plankton and the remoteness guards against pollution.

It takes about three years for the oysters to be ready for the table. The first crop of 10,000 are almost ready and will probably go to restaurants and hotels in the Highlands and Islands. By next year, however, 100,000 will be produced leading to, it is hoped, five times that number by 1978.

The final target is a unit producing a million oysters a year at prices where a dozen will sell for not a great deal more than a good plate of fish and chips at present.

'If you consider how oysters went down with pints of porter in the days of Boswell and Oscar Wilde . . . we can take oysters out of the luxury food class and give them back the mass appeal they had 100 years ago when they made a big contribution to the nation's larder.'



Undergoing tests in an electro-magnetically 'clean' screened chamber at the Bristol space centre of British Aircraft Corporation in south-west England is GEOS – Europe's first geostationary scientific satellite. The satellite, due for launching from Cape Canaveral in April 1977, is being developed for the European Space Agency by the international STAR consortium of companies, with BAC as prime contractor. GEOS will carry seven experiments from the scientific centres of Europe and its mission will be to measure waves, fields and particles over a wide frequency and energy range in the Earth's magnetosphere. It will go into orbit more than 35,000km above the equator and the information sent back from space will be distributed to scientists throughout the world.

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Parliament

Monday, 11 October

Prices of materials and fuels

Mr Tim Sainsbury (Hove) wanted to know the increase in the price of materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry over the past 12 months.

Mr Maclennan told him that the wholesale price index for materials and fuels purchased by manufacturing industry rose by 29.1 per cent in the 12 months to September 1976.

Retail price index

Questions were asked by Mr J. W. Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr), Mr Mike Thomas (Newcastle upon Tyne East), Mr Tony Durant (Reading North), Mr Dennis Canavan (West Stirlingshire), and Mr Tim Renton (Mid-Sussex) on the rate of increase of retail price index.

Mr Hattersley said: 'The monthly increase in the retail price index to August 1976 was 1.4 per cent giving an annual increase of 13.8 per cent, just over half the increase at August 1975, and 7.2 per cent since January 1976.'

'By what percentage the cost of living has increased since February 1974 to the latest available date?' asked Mr Toby Jessel (Twickenham).

'55.9 per cent,' said Mr Hattersley.

Mr John MacGregor (South Norfolk) wanted to know the six-monthly percentage increase in the retail price index, excluding seasonal food, for each month since January 1976.

Mr Hatterley gave the following figures: 6.7, 6.1, 6.6, 6.7, 6.4, 6.2 and 6.4.

Mr Kenneth Lewis (Rutland and Stamford) and Mr Geoffrey Dodsworth (South West Hertfordshire) asked about increases in the prices of nationalised industry products.

Mr Maclennan answered: 'The prices of those nationalised industry goods and services included in the retail price index rose by 23.6 per cent from August 1975 to August 1976 resulting in an increase of about 2 per cent in the general index.'

Mr Peter Morrison (City of Chester) asked: 'What has been the increase in the retail price index over the past 12 months in the United Kingdom, the United States, France, west Germany, and Japan, respectively?'

Mr Maclennan answered: 'The annual increases in consumer prices up to July 1976, the latest month for which consumer data are available for all these countries, were 12.9 per cent in the United Kingdom, 5.4 per cent in the United States, 9.4 per cent in France, 4.1 per cent in west Germany and 9.5 per cent in Japan.'

The Price Code

Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne) asked for a statement about future government policy towards price control.

'The present statutory powers to enforce a Price Code will expire on 31 July 1977, and I am considering what should follow,' said Mr Hattersley.

Mr Michael Neubert (Havering, Romford) asked for an estimate of the effect on prices of the additional investment relief announced in the consultative document and the additional relief announced by the chancellor.

Mr Hattersley said: 'It is not possible to make accurate estimates of the effect of individual Price Code changes on the overall price levels. We estimate that the total effect will be an increase of about 1 per cent'.

The drought

Mr David Price (Eastleigh) asked what would be the estimated effect on food prices, over the next year, of the drought.

'At this stage, it is too early to assess the precise effects of the drought on food supplies and prices,' said Mr Hattersley. 'Some foodstuffs will, of course, not be affected but the overall effect on the food index will, for some months, be considerable.'

Trades Descriptions Act

Mr Robert McCrindle asked if the Trades Descriptions Act 1968 would be amended or extended.

'The report on the review of the act carried out under the chairmanship of the former Director General of Fair Trading will be published very shortly,' said Mr Fraser. 'The government will give careful consideration to its recommendations before announcing their intentions regarding possible amending legislation.'

Metrication Board

'What has been the total cost to date of the Metrication Board?' asked Mr Roger Moate (Faversham).

Mr Fraser answered that the cost was approximately £4½ million since the board was established in 1969.

Safety of electrical equipment

Mrs Joyce Butler (Haringey, Wood Green) asked what representations have been received from interested persons or bodies that regulation 5(2) of the Electrical Appliances (Colour Code) Regulation 1969 should be revoked; what representations have been received asking that regulation 5(2) should be extended; and what action is intended.

Mr Fraser said: 'I have received no representations of either kind. But I am asking the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Household Electrical Equipment to consider the matter in the light of the marking requirements in regulation 12 of the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1975.'

BSC at Redcar

Mr Bruce George (Wallsall, South) asked for a statement on the British Steel Corporation's proposals for a new plate mill at Redcar.

Mr Kaufman said: 'I have made it clear to the corporation that the government fully accept the case for substantial new investment in UK plate mill capacity at a suitable location. The corporation are now considering how this might best be achieved in the light of updated forecasts of future demand at home and abroad and will then make a recommendation to me.'

Nedo working party reports

Mr J. W. Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr) asked for a statement on the response of companies and trade unions to the invitation to study the Nedo working party reports.

Mr Huckfield said that Mr Varley wrote to about 250 company chairmen asking them to discuss the implications of the reports with those who work in their companies, and to 50 trade union secretaries asking them to ensure that their members participated fully in the strategy work.

'I am very gratified by the response,' he continued. 'The overwhelming majority of

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Leslie Huckfield
Robert Cryer

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Edmund Dell
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Roy Hattersley
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

chairman and secretaries who have so far replied have expressed a strong desire to see the strategy succeed. Many letters raise constructive points to which my department is giving careful attention.'

Machine Tool Industry Scheme

Mr J. W. Rooker asked how much of the aid available under the Machine Tool Industry Scheme has been taken up.

Mr Williams answered: 'Formal offers of assistance under the Machine Tool Industry Scheme totalling £2,937,000 have been or are about to be made. Applications still under consideration are likely to account for a further £2 million.'

Mr Rooker asked for a statement on the take-up of aid under the scheme since it was reorganised.

'The revision and extension of the scheme which was announced in August has prompted a large number of additional inquiries but these have not yet reached the stage of firm applications,' said Mr Williams.

West Midlands

Mr Rooker asked for a list of the various schemes of aid and assistance to industry for which the Department of Industry is responsible and which do not operate in the West Midlands.

'Regional development grant for plant and machinery is not paid in any part of the West Midlands,' said Mr Williams. 'As the Oswestry intermediate area lies within the region all other schemes of assistance to industry for which I am responsible are available to qualifying firms in part or all of the region.'

Concorde

Mr Hugh Jenkins (Wandsworth, Putney) asked the Secretary of State for Industry: 'If, in view of the amendment to the 1962 ICAO Convention introducing the word "then" before the word "accepted" and the ICAO Bulletin *of 29 November 1962 interpreting the intention of this as meaning "at the time supersonic aircraft were ready to be introduced into commercial service", he will amplify his statement to the Washington Concorde hearings in which he asserted that the ICAO noise rules applicable to Concorde were less onerous than was actually the case.'*

Mr Huckfield answered: 'My hon friend, the minister of state, in replying to questions at the Washington Hearings on Concorde in January, expressed the interpretation of the 1962 ICAO Resolution that has been followed by the Concorde manufacturers. He made it clear that Concorde's noise was broadly comparable with subsonic aircraft operating in 1962, not with that of high by-pass engined aircraft now operating.'

The Queen's Awards

Mr Rooker asked how many of the 1976 Queen's Awards have not yet been presented to the winners; and for a statement on reasons for delay of any outstanding presentations.

Mr Meacher answered: 'Some 78 of the 115 of the 1976 awards have been presented. Mutually agreed arrangements for presentations are made between the winners and the lord lieutenants who make them on behalf of HM The Queen and some seven firms have asked for the ceremony to be delayed until emblems are available. The presentation of the award normally includes the delivery of the grant document of appointment and the emblem of the award encapsulated in a transparent mounting. The suppliers of the emblems have had a number of technical and other difficulties in manufacturing the emblems and these together with the changes in the emblems consequent on the 1975 Review of the Scheme have made it impossible to supply the emblem for most of the 1976 award presentations made to date. Initial supplies of the emblems are now being received and it is hoped that the situation will improve in the near future and that winners will receive emblems with the least possible further delay.'

Overseas investment

Mr Hugh Jenkins asked why it is the Secretary of State for Trade's policy that the bulk of British private investment shall be in overseas developed countries.

Mr Meacher replied: 'The choice of location for private investment is essentially a matter for commercial decision by the individual companies concerned. But in recognition of the benefits which private investment can bring to developing countries, provided it accords with their national priorities, the government has a number of measures which help British investors in developing countries. These include double taxation agreements, bilateral investment protection agreements, a scheme for helping pre-investment studies and the Export Credits Guarantee Department's investment insurance scheme.'

Slater Walker

Mr Terence L. Higgins (Worthing) asked what reports have been received on Slater Walker Securities Ltd.

Mr Clinton Davis answered: 'My rt hon friend has received copies of reports prepared by the company's accountants, the Singapore Stock Exchange and the inspector appointed by the Singapore Government. Further information is being sought from other sources. He has also exercised his powers under section 109 of the 1967 Companies Act and as a result criminal proceedings for breaches of section 54 of the Companies Act 1948 have been instituted. When the reports and further information have been fully considered we shall decide whether other action is necessary.'

British Airways

Sir John Rodgers (Sevenoaks) asked if BEA and BOAC have now fully merged; or whether the two boards of directors are still in operation.

'The Overseas, European and Regional Divisions of British Airways have a wide degree of autonomy and each has its own board of management,' said Mr Clinton Davis. 'All three are integral parts of British Airways, however, and subject to the decisions of the main board, which includes the chief executives of Overseas and European Divisions.'

Travel agents

Mr Robert McCrindle asked if the Secretary of State for Trade has had discussions with the CAA on the criteria for IATA approval of travel agents in the light of recent developments.

Mr Clinton Davis answered: 'My department has kept in touch with the Civil Aviation Authority, which has now completed its analysis of the whole of the relevant IATA resolution, following its decision to withdraw approval of the turnover criterion. The authority is starting discussions with United Kingdom IATA airlines and with bodies representing United Kingdom travel agency interests.'

Mr McCrindle also asked if the Secretary of State for Trade has had discussions with the Civil Aviation Bureau in the USA on the simplification of trans-Atlantic air fares structure.

Mr Clinton Davis said: 'Discussions about a simplification of the structure of trans-Atlantic air fares have been held between the Civil Aviation Authority and the US Civil Aeronautics Board. Proposals for simpler fares structures have also been put forward by some airlines. However, neither the authorities nor the airlines concerned have yet reached agreement.'

Heathrow and Gatwick

Mr McCrindle asked: 'What progress is being made towards the transfer of airline operations from Heathrow to Gatwick?'

Mr Clinton Davis answered: 'Discussions are taking place between the Department of Trade, British Airports Authority, Civil Aviation Authority and airlines, about the allocation of air traffic between Heathrow and Gatwick to utilise effectively the additional capacity which is now being provided at Gatwick.'

Tuesday, 12 October

Merseyside

Mr Robert Parry (Liverpool, Scotland Exchange) asked for a statement from the Secretary of State for Industry on proposals submitted to him at a recent meeting by members representing Merseyside constituencies regarding matters affecting his department.

Mr Williams replied: 'At the meeting on 3 August there was a most useful exchange of views on Merseyside's needs for industrial investment and employment. We shall continue to do everything we can to facilitate industrial development there.'

Mr Parry asked what measures will be taken to help alleviate the present high level of unemployment on Merseyside.

'All the measures introduced by the present government to reduce unemployment are available in Merseyside,' said Mr Williams. 'We also made Merseyside a special development area in order to increase the regional incentives available there and we shall contine to call the attention of industry to these incentives.'

Dumping footwear

Sir Geoffrey de Freitas (Kettering) asked what action has been taken during the past 12 months to prevent the dumping of footwear from Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America, respectively.

Mr Meacher replied: 'During the past 12 months a countervailing duty of 8 per cent was imposed from 29 April 1976 on subsidised men's fashion leather footwear from Brazil and an application for the imposition of anti-dumping duties on men's leather sandals from Poland and Czechoslovakia was accepted for investigation on 27 September 1976. Several other complaints have been made by the UK industry about allegedly dumped and subsidised footwear imports from various sources. We are in touch with the industry about these

but in most cases it has not so far been possible to produce sufficient evidence to justify formal action under the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969.

'In addition to anti-dumping investigations, voluntary restraint levels have been agreed for 1976 in respect of leather footwear (excluding sandals) from Eastern Europe. Czechoslovakia, Romania and Poland, the principal East European suppliers of low cost footwear, have undertaken to continue during 1976 their 1975 restraint on exports of men's leather footwear to a level 5 to 10 per cent below their 1974 exports.'

Company records

Mr John Spence (Thirsk and Malton) asked when a postal sales service would be introduced in respect of company records; and if such records would be made available also in microfiche form.

Mr Clinton Davis answered: 'There is no immediate prospect of resuming the selective service for the postal sales of copies of documents contained in the public files of registered companies, which was suspended in October 1975 as an economy measure. It is, however, proposed that a new service will be introduced during 1977 for the postal sale of copies of the complete microfiche record of documents lodged by any company registered in England and Wales.'

Hydrographic services

Mr Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would impose a levy on maritime insurance companies to help meet the cost of expanding the services of the hydrographer.

'Such levies could only be imposed on British companies and would put them at a disadvantage compared with overseas companies.' replied Mr Clinton Davis. 'Accordingly it is not considered justified to seek this form of cost recovery.'

Mr Hooley also asked if discussions would be held with the General Council of British Shipping about the need for expansion of the services of the hydrographer, and for a levy on shipping companies to help meet the cost of the work of the hydrographer.

Mr Clinton Davis said: 'Following previous consultations of this kind further meetings with the General Council of British Shipping will take place: the next later this month to assess the future needs of merchant shipping for hydrographic surveys. During these meetings we will consider the question of the funding of the hydrographic services.'

'How many new marine works including offshore structures and pipelines, were notified to the hydrographer in 1974, 1975 and to date in 1976?' asked Mr Hooley.

Mr Clinton Davis said: 'My department sent the following notifications direct to the hydrographer in the years shown:

	1974	1975	1976 (to date)
General tidal works	70	99	80
Permanent offshore oil/gas installations	13	10	15
Pipelines	12	13	5

In addition, as required by the terms of my consent to drilling operations by exploration rigs, the following notifications were sent to the hydrographer by oil/gas operators:

	1974	1975	1976 (to date)
Exploration rigs	98	114	69

International removal services

Mr Marcus Fox (Shipley) asked what measures are proposed in the interest of consumer protection, to regulate the activities of unlicensed and unbonded operators offering international removal services to the public.

Mr Fraser answered: 'I have recently written to the high commissioners for Australia, Canada and New Zealand drawing their attention to the need for prospective emigrants to be advised to use only reliable and reputable firms for transporting their effects. I am also considering what further steps may be necessary to safeguard emigrants' interests in this area.'

IATA agreement

Baroness Burton of Coventry asked if the government has received advice from the Office of Fair Trading as to whether or not the IATA agreement and procedure concerning the withdrawal of licences from small travel agencies is a restrictive practice; if so, what subsequent action has been taken; if not, when such advice may be expected.

Lord Oram replied: 'The question whether an agreement is registrable under the restrictive trade practices legislation is a matter for the Director General of Fair Trading and ultimately for the courts. I understand that the Director General considers that the withdrawal of licences by IATA does not fall within the scope of the legislation. Since my noble friend's question clearly relates to the problem debated on 12 July, I should also say that 21 of 22 travel agency locations whose appointments were withdrawn by IATA have now been reinstated, and action against a further four agencies has been suspended. One agency declined the offer of reinstatement.'

Wednesday, 13 October

Government-owned shares

Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne) asked for a list of those companies or corporations in which the government owns all or a majority of the shares and the numbers of such shares held by the government in each case, as a proportion of the whole.

Mr Huckfield gave the following information for companies or corporations under the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Industry:

Majority shareholdings[1]	Proportion of shares held
Appledore Shipbuilders Ltd	100%
Beagle Aircraft Ltd (in liquidation)	100%
Cable and Wireless Ltd[2]	—
Govan Shipbuilders Ltd	100%
North East Coast Shiprepairers Ltd	100%
Sunderland Shipbuilders Ltd	100%

Notes

1 For the purposes of this table, a majority shareholding is defined as one of over 50 per cent (up to and including 100 per cent) of issued voting capital and a minority shareholding as one of 50 per cent or less.

2 Cable and Wireless Ltd is a company wholly owned by the government with all but a few of its shares held by the Treasury Solicitor.

Accelerated Projects Scheme

Mr J. W. Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr) asked: 'What was the total assistance to industry under the Accelerated Projects Scheme; and how this aid was distributed by industry and region?'

Mr Williams' reply is on page 188.

BSC capital programme

Mr Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) inquired about recent discussions with the Metallurgical Plantmakers' Federation concerning the capital programme of the British Steel Corporation; what major investment decisions of BSC still require government clearance; what are the major schemes which will be started in 1976-77 and 1977-78; and what is the aggregate capital spending programme of BSC in each of these years.

Mr Huckfield replied: 'My hon friend, the minister of state, held discussions with the Metallurgical Plantmakers' Federation on 1 September and this is being followed up by discussions between the federation and officials. The corporation is reviewing its proposals on Port Talbot/Shotton and on plate mill development and no other pending major projects have been put before the government. The capital development programme for 1976/77 is estimated at a record £619 million. The figure for 1977/78 will be published in the forthcoming white paper on public expenditure.'

Mobil Oil Company

Mr Gwilym Roberts (Cannock) asked for a statement concerning the assistance provided to Mobil Oil Co Ltd during the parliamentary recess.

Mr Williams said that the following statement has been laid that day: 'In accordance with Section 8(8) of the Industry Act 1972, the Secretary of State for Industry states that financial assistance of £10.3 million has been offered to Mobil Oil Co Ltd during the parliamentary recess in the form of an interest relief grant. The assistance was provided under the Accelerated Projects Scheme to bring forward the construction of a £70 million fluid catalytic cracker unit at Coryton, Essex.'

Cable and Wireless

Mr Ian Gow asked for an estimate of the profit or loss which would be made by Cable and Wireless Ltd during the current financial year.

'No estimate for 1976-77 is available but the pre-tax profit earned in 1975-76 was £28 million', said Mr Huckfield.

Mr Gow asked for a list of the directors of Cable and Wireless, the age of each, and their salaries.

Mr Huckfield gave the following information:

	Year of birth	Salary £
Chairman (part-time)		
Mr H. G. Lillicrap	1913	9,080
Managing director (full-time)		
Mr A. A. Willett	1924	12,830
Directors (full-time)		
Mr R. A. Rice	1922	10,330
Mr W. H. Davies	1917	
Mr P. A. McCunn	1922	
Mr R. W. Cannon	1923	
Directors (part-time)		
Mr J. Hodgson	1925	Unpaid
Mr D. Berriman	1928	1,000
Mr W. R. R. Haines	1928	
Mr A. J. Kirkwood	1925	

Slater Walker

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would instruct his department to investigate fully the affairs of Slater Walker Securities along the lines of the recent investigations made into London Counties Securities Ltd and Lonrho.

'The reports of the accountants appointed by Slater Walker Securities Ltd to investigate that company's affairs are under consideration,' said Mr Clinton Davis. 'My rt hon friend has already exercised his powers under section 109 of the Companies Act 1967 and as a result criminal proceedings for breaches of section 54 of the Companies Act 1948 have been instituted.

'Further information is now being sought and when this has been received and the accounts' reports have been fully considered, we shall decide what further steps or inquiries may be necessary.'

Air disaster in Yugoslavia

Mr John Osborn (Sheffield, Hallam) referred to the mid-air collision over Zagreb in Yugoslavia involving a British Airways flight, and asked what steps would be taken in conjunction with the ICAO, IATA and the Civil Aviation Authority to ensure standard air traffic control procedures over Europe, including military as well as civil air traffic and the use of the most efficient and modern control equipment, in order to bring about improved efficiency and safety.

Mr Clinton Davis replied: 'The mid-air collision between the British Airways Trident and an Inex Adria DC9 on 10 September 1976, which took place in airspace for which Yugoslav Air Traffic Control is responsible, is the subject of a full investigation by the Yugoslav authorities and it would be premature to speculate on the follow-up measures which that investigation may show to be necessary or desirable. The Civil Aviation Authority is responsible for safety matters concerning UK registered civil aircraft and their operation including follow-up action on accidents, and the chairman of the CAA has assured the government that the authority will take all possible action with international bodies, airlines or other organisations to seek to secure any improvements which the inquiry may show to be necessary. In the meantime I have drawn the attention of the chairman of the CAA to the hon member's inquiries.'

Air navigation

Mr Neville Sandelson (Hillingdon, Hayes and Harlington) asked for a statement on the activities of the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation of which the United Kingdom is a member.

Mr Dell said, 'Copies of the Thirteenth Annual Report of the Eurocontrol Organisation, summarising its activities during 1975, have been placed in the Library of the House.'

Greenwell's shipyard

Mr Frederick Willey (Sunderland North) asked about progress regarding the re-opening of Greenwell's Shipyard, Sunderland.

Mr Huckfield answered: 'There have been no recent developments concerning the re-opening of Greenwell, but Sunderland Shipbuilders remain willing to negotiate on the basis of reasonable offers.'

Pilotage

Mr Alan Lee Williams (Havering, Hornchurch) asked if the government intends to take over the functions of Trinity House.

Mr Clinton Davis's reply is on page 196.

Thursday, 14 October

Exports of footwear to EEC and USA

Sir Geoffrey de Freitas (Kettering) referred to an increase, in the first six months of 1976, compared with the same six months of 1975, in the value of footwear exports to the EEC of 63 per cent and to the United States of 14 per cent, and asked to what these increases are attributed.

'These figures give me some satisfaction but most of the increase to the EEC is accounted for by exports to the Irish Republic,' said Mr Meacher. 'I should like to see British footwear manufacturers taking fuller advantage of the depreciation of sterling and the elimination of the EEC tariff to boost their exports, especially to Europe.'

Voluntary control of exports to UK

Mr Michael Shersby (Hillingdon, Uxbridge) asked for a list of the agreements made since February 1974 between the Department of Trade and foreign governments for the voluntary control of their exports to the UK.

Mr Meacher said that no agreements had been made but that there had been exchanges at government level or between industries on the following items:

Eastern Europe
1 Men's and boys' woollen suits
2 Men's and boys' woollen jackets
3 Men's shirts of woven man-made fibres
4 Men's, women's and children's leather footwear (excluding sandals)

Japan
5 Bulk steels
6 Special steels
7 Pottery
8 Stainless steel tableware
9 Ball-bearings
10 Cars
11 Colour TV sets
12 Portable monochrome TV sets
13 Textiles

Merseyside

Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk (Ormskirk) wanted to know the amount of money spent on regional development grants in the north west in the financial years 1973-74, 1974-75 and 1975-76; and what proportion of this was attributable to Merseyside.

Mr Williams said: 'Regional development grants totalling £16.084 million and £40.736 million were paid in the north-west in the financial years 1973-74 and 1974-75 respectively. Approximately 75 per cent of these grants were paid for Merseyside. In my reply to the member for Ormskirk on 23 July (*Trade and Industry*, 30 July, page 317) I estimated that about half the north-west grant in 1975-76 went to Merseyside. This should have been about 75 per cent; the proportion has remained fairly constant over the last three years.'

Cable and Wireless

Mr Peter Viggers (Gosport) and Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked questions about the appointment of the chairman of Cable and Wireless Ltd.

Mr Kaufman replied: 'My rt hon friend has approved the appointment of Mr Edward Short as chairman of Cable and Wireless Ltd in succession to Mr H. G. Lillicrap who retires on 28 October. As the Select Committee on Nationalised Industires pointed out in their recent report on the company, the chairman is particularly concerned with governments, especially overseas where most of the company's business is carried out. Mr Short's wide experience in government, which included a period as Postmaster General, will greatly assist him in discharging his new responsibilities. It is not appropriate to advertise this appointment nor is it customary to make known whether other candidates were considered.'

Replying to further questions, Mr Kaufman said, 'The salary is at present £9,080. While the appointment is in principle pensionable, no pension arrangements have yet been made for the new chairman. Personal allowances are not paid to members of public boards. Provision of a car is a matter for the board of the company.'

Manbré Sugars and Tate and Lyle

Mr Kenneth Warren (Hastings) asked how the proposed take-over of Manbré Sugars Ltd by Tate Lyle Ltd fails to meet the requirements of the Fair Trading Act 1973 for reference of the proposal to the Monopolies Commission.

'This merger met the criteria in the Fair Trading Act for reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, but the exercise of the power of reference is discretionary,' said Mr Fraser. 'No reference was made primarily because a unified cane sugar refining industry offers the best prospects of keeping the loss of jobs on rationalisation to a minimum, particularly in areas of high unemployment.'

Shipping company mergers

Mr Ioan Evans inquired about the report of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on the existing and proposed mergers involving Euro-Canadian Shipholdings Ltd and Furness Withy and Co Ltd and its subsidiary Manchester Liners Ltd.

Mr Fraser's answer is on page 194.

Friday, 15 October

Survey of company share registers

Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked: 'Under what legislation is the Secretary of State for Industry empowered to write to private individuals seeking information on their shareholdings on a form entitled "Survey of company share registers"; how many letters and forms have been sent out; how recipients are selected; what happens to the information; how much this exercise is costing; how long it will be continued; and if he will stop it forthwith as a departmental contribution to cutting public expenditure?'

'The inquiry is a voluntary one,' said Mr Huckfield. 'About 3,500 letters and forms have been sent out. The addressees have been selected from company share registers as a representative sample of personal shareholders.

'The information will be used to estimate the extent to which personal shareholders are acting as trustees for other categories of beneficial holders. The cost of this postal inquiry including processing is approximately £3,500. All the letters have now been sent out and replies are being received, the vast majority of which are co-operative. The

inquiry is designed to produce valuable information and I cannot agree that it should be terminated.'

Turbine generating facility at Trafford Park

Mr Lewis Carter-Jones (Eccles) asked what support is being given to the encouragement of the highly skilled turbine generating facility at Trafford Park, Manchester.

Mr Williams answered: 'The CPRS is at present studying the problems of the power plant manufacturers. A decision on what can be done to meet the problems of the industry will be made in the light of this and other relevant studies which have been commissioned.'

Non-ferrous foundry industry

Sir George Young (Ealing, Acton) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry still intends to announce a scheme of assistance to the non-ferrous foundry industry in accordance with his statements on 12 February 1976.

Mr Williams said, 'The case for a scheme of assistance for non-ferrous foundries is under detailed consideration. Representatives of the industry have co-operated with my department by providing information.'

Sir George Young also asked if expenditure incurred on new non-ferrous foundries after 12 February 1976, but before the full announcement of the scheme, would be eligible for grants under the scheme.

'In the event of a scheme being announced, it is not expected that such expenditure would be eligible for consideration for assistance,' said Mr Williams.

Children's footwear

Mr Roger Sims (Bromley, Chislehurst) wanted to know the increase in the average price of children's footwear in each of the last three years.

Mr Maclennan answered that the increase in the 12 months to August in each of the years in question was approximately 16 per cent, 15 per cent and 15 per cent respectively. Manufacturers must comply with the Price Code which generally requires price increases to be based on increases in costs.

Fireworks

Miss Janet Fookes (Plymouth, Drake) asked about steps taken by the DPCP to inform retailers of the new law and voluntary agreement on fireworks.

Mr Fraser's reply is on page 195.

Miss Fookes asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection intends to accept the offer of the National Campaign for Firework Reform to monitor the new law.

Mr Fraser said, 'The offer made by the National Campaign for Firework Reform is to make available to my department the results of a survey they are carrying out concerning the Explosives (Age of Purchase, etc) Act 1976. Any information supplied will be carefully considered.'

Local price survey scheme

Mr Michael Marshall (Arundel) asked for an estimate of the cost of the local price survey scheme.

Mr Maclennan said, 'The total estimated cost of the scheme in this and the last financial year, is £400,000.'

TV rental charges

Mr George Rodgers (Chorley) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection for a statement on the outcome of his discussions with the TV specialist rental firms on the Price Commission's Report on TV Rental Charges.

Mr Hattersley's reply is on page 194.

Marine safety

Mr. Tam Dalyell (West Lothian) asked for a list of the tasks being tackled by the inter-departmental committee on Marine Safety.

Mr Clinton Davis said, 'The terms of reference of this new committee are "to co-ordinate the development and implementation of policy relating to safety at sea". Its primary tasks have been identified as relating to offshore safety; in particular, the co-ordination of regulations under various legislation, the development of common attitudes to enforcement of regulations by the authorites concerned, and keeping under review the development of international requirements. The committee has met twice and initiated work particularly in these areas.'

Dumping

Mr Paul B. Rose (Manchester, Blackley) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would take action to prevent the dumping of cheap textiles and shoes on the British market.

Mr Meacher answered, 'Applications for anti-dumping action against suits from Eastern Area countries and against men's leather sandals from Czechoslovakia and Poland have been received and are currently under investigation by my department. Anti-dumping or countervailing duties have already been imposed on ladies' rubberised textiles fabric raincoats from Hong Kong and on men's leather fashion footwear from Brazil. In addition, an anti-dumping duty has been imposed on polyester fibre from Romania. Any further applications received from sectors of the industries concerned will also be given immediate consideration.'

Mr Michael Shersby (Hillingdon, Uxbridge) asked for a list of the orders made by the Department of Trade since February 1974 imposing tariffs, quotas or other restrictions on imports into the United Kingdom: and indicating which of these were made as 'anti-dumping' orders.

Mr Meacher gave the following information:

Orders imposing or increasing import duties are made by the Treasury on the recommendation of the Department of Trade. The orders made during the period were:

SI no	Title
1974	
608	The Import Duties (General) No 2) Order 1974
887	The Import Duties (General) (No 3) Order 1974
1318	The Import Duties (Tunisia) (Reductions) Order 1974
1371	The Import Duties (Temporary Reductions and Exemptions) (No 13) Order 1974
1700	The Import Duties (Temporary Reductions and Exemptions) (No 17) Order 1974
2020	The Import Duties (General) (No 5) Order 1974
1975	
85	The Import Duties (Turkey) (Reductions and Exemptions) Amendment) Order 1975
263	The Import Duties (Beef and Veal) Order 1975
975	The Import Duties (Greece) Order 1975
1003	The Import Duties (Israel) Order 1975
1005	The Import Duties (Spain) Order 1975
1064	The Import Duties (General) (No 1) Order 1975
1159	The Import Duties (General) (No 2) Order 1975
1266	The Import Duties (General) (No 3) Order 1975
1492	The Import Duties (General) (No 4) Order 1975
1529	The Import Duties (Temporary Reductions and Exemptions) (No 14) Order 1975
1744	The Import Duties (General) (No 5) Order 1975
2022	The Import Duties (General) (No 6) Order 1975
2049	The Import Duties (General) (No 7) Order 1975
2073	The Import Duties (General) (No 8) Order 1975
2114	The Import Duties (General) (No 9) Order 1975
1976	
125	The Import Duties (General) (No 1) Order 1976
370	The Import Duties (General) (No 2) Order 1976
912	The Import Duties (General) (No 3) Order 1976
976	The Import Duties (Certain Mediterranean Countries) Order 1976
1382	The Import Duties (General) (No 6) Order 1976

Quantitative restrictions on imports into the UK are imposed by means of an appropriate amendments to the Open General Import Licences of 5 July 1973. Copies of the licence and amendments to it are available in the Library of the House. Restrictions introduced during the period which required such amendments were:

Amendment no	Date	Goods affected and country
5	23.12.74	Cotton yarn (55.05) from Greece and Turkey
10	15.4.75	Gold coins (71.12; 71.13) and gold medals, medallions and tablets (99.05; 99.06) from all sources
13	14.8.75	Yarns, fabrics and made up textiles of cotton and other materials from Taiwan
14	20.8.75	Certain fabrics and made up textiles from the Republic of Korea
18	30.12.75	Endangered species of fauna and flora, and specified parts and derivatives, from all sources
20	14.1.76	Cotton yarn (55.05) from Spain and Portugal; woven mmf fabrics (56.07) from Portugal
25	10.3.76	Men's and boys' woollen suits (ex 61.01) from Romania, Czechoslovakia and German Democratic Republic
27	8.6.76	Polyethylene/polypropylene sacks and bags from South Korea (ex 62.03)
29	29.7.76	Men's and boys' woollen jackets and blazers (ex 61.01) from Czechoslovakia
30	29.7.76	Cotton fabric (55.09) and synthetic textile fabric (ex 56.07) from Colombia
31	17.8.76	Men's and boys' shirts (ex 61.03) from China
32	23.9.76	Portable monochrome TV sets from Taiwan
33	7.10.76	Men's and boys' shirts from Romania

Anti-dumping and countervailing duties are imposed by orders made under the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969. The orders made during the period were:

SI no	Title
1974	
1541	The Anti-Dumping (Provisional Charge to Duty) Order 1974
2069	The Anti-Dumping (Provisional Charge to Duty) (Extension) Order 1974
1975	
140	The Anti-Dumping (Provisional Charge to Duty) Order 1975
368	The Anti-Dumping Duty Order 1975
1714	The Anti-Dumping Duty (Temporary Suspension) (Revocation) Order 1975
1976	
638	The Countervailing Duty (Provisional Charge to Duty) Order 1976
737	The Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duties Order 1973 (Amendment) Order 1976
736	The Anti-Dumping Duty Order 1976
763	The Anti-Dumping (Provisional Charge to Duty) Order 1976
1100	The Anti-Dumping Duty (No 2) Order 1976
1471	The Anti-Dumping (Provisional charge to Duty) (No 2) Order 1976

Fast reactor safety

Mr James Dempsey (Coatbridge and Airdrie) asked the Secretary of State for Energy, what questions on safety he has put to the Nuclear Inspectorate.

Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, said: 'A list of questions bearing on fast reactor safety which I am sending to the Nuclear Inspectorate is set out below. The questions cover issues which I think are of concern to the ordinary citizen. I will publish the answers in due course. I have placed in the House of Commons library today two further lists of questions which have been sent to me by the hon member for Sutton Carshalton, and by the Friends of the Earth. I am asking the inspectorate to answer those of them which fall within their responsibilities, and am arranging for the remainder to be considered by the government departments and other bodies concerned. These answers also I will in due course publish.'

Comparative safety of thermal and fast reactors

1 Has the work done on fast reactor technology so far, here or world-wide, enabled you to say authoritatively that fast reactors will be as safe in operation as thermal reactors now in use?
2 What are the major safety hazards associated with fast reactors not to be found in thermal systems?
3 How far have we got in answering the questions raised about the safety of fast reactors?

The kind of accidents possible with fast reactors

4 What sort of failures in fast reactors could precipitate a major nuclear accident?
5 What system of containment would be needed to guarantee, beyond doubt, that a fast reactor accident would be held within that containment?
6 If the core melted through the pressure vessel and sank into the earth how far would it go and what could stop it and how could it be subsequently recovered?
7 How vulnerable would a fast reactor be to the following set of circumstances:
   a A complete failure of a power supply to the control systems?
   b The impact of an aircraft crash on it?
   c The impact of a high explosive bomb or missile striking it?
   d The impact of a nuclear weapon striking it?

The possible consequences of a fast reactor accident

8 What could happen if there was a serious nuclear accident in a fast reactor?
9 How many people would be killed if a fast reactor went wrong; in what area, and over what period of time would the subsequent radio-activity continue to have fatal effects?
10 Have any large scale tests been undertaken to assess the exact consequences of a nuclear accident at a fast reactor?
11 How much warning would there be of a potential nuclear accident to permit the evacuation of the site and the neighbouring area?

The problems arising from the use of plutonium

12 What are the special problems associated with the manufacture and holding of stocks of plutonium?
13 What are the special hazards and problems associated with the re-processing of fast reactor fuel elements?
14 What are the safety hazards relating to re-processing comparable to the set of circumstances described in question 7 above?

The problem of nuclear waste

15 What is the best estimate you can give now about the prospects of providing an absolute security for nuclear waste arising from fast reactors by the use of technologies, that now exist, designed to prevent a hazard to life or health throughout the period when this waste would be dangerous and for how many years would it be dangerous?

Purpose and acceptability of building a full-sized 'demonstration' fast reactor

16 What advantages do you see in Britain building its own commercial-sized demonstration fast reactor (CFR1) on the present state of technology, as compared to the alternative possibility of waiting until the state of the art has advanced here and abroad and certain unresolved safety questions are better understood and better remedies have been found in dealing with them?
17 By how much would the potential risk associated with CFR1 exceed the risk we already accept at Dounreay with the prototype fast reactor (PFR)?
18 In your judgement are the risks of proceeding with CFR1 at this stage justified and could you so justify them?
19 As at present advised by what date would you expect that you would be in a position to clear the reference design for a fast reactor to be sited as near our major cities as are the new advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR) thermal nuclear power stations?

Industrial publicity

Publicity for British exporters can often be obtained through use of the facilities of the Central Office of Information, who are concerned with collecting from industry items suitable for dissemination overseas by way of Government information services. The COI are interested in news items, feature article material, photographs, tape recordings for radio, and films for television and other screening. Contact should be made with the nearest Regional Office covering your area.

Northern: Mr H. G. Roberts, Andrews House, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4TB (Tel: 27575 – Telex 53277).

Yorkshire & Humberside: Mr T. Cooban, City House, Leeds LS1 4JG (Tel: 38232 – Telex Econ Plan 55472 – message to be prefixed for COI).

East Midland: Mr P. T. Brazier, Severns House, 20 Middle Pavement, Nottingham NG1 7DW (Tel: 0602 56181 – Telex 37572 COINOT – G)

Eastern: Mr A. A. McLoughlin, 72-80 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1LL (Tel: 58911 – Telex 81187).

London & South Eastern*: Mr R. Dean, OBE, St Christopher House Annexe, Sumner Street, London, SE1 (Tel: 01-928 2371 – Telex 918881 message to be prefixed for London Region).

Southern: Mr A. S. Poole, Market Place House, Reading RG1 2EH (Tel: 581261 – Telex 848216).

South Western: Mr P. Yorke, The Pithay, Bristol BS1 2NF (Tel: 291071 – Telex 44203).

Midland: Mr D. C. Boyd, Five Ways House, Islington Row, Birmingham B15 1SH (Tel: 021-643 8191 – Telex 33376).

North Western: Mr P. Porter, 22nd floor, Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BD (Tel: 061-832 9111 – Telex 667830).

Scottish Office: Mr C. MacGregor, MBE, Scottish Information Office, New St. Andrew's House, St. James Centre, Edinburgh EH1 3TD (Tel: 031-556 8400).

Ulster Office: Northern Ireland Information Service, Stormont Castle, Belfast BT4 3ST (Tel: 63011).

Welsh Office: Mr Brian Evans, Director, Welsh Office Information Division, Oxford House, Hills Street, Cardiff CF1 2XG (Tel: 44171 – Telex 49327).

* National companies in central London, and particularly those with UK subsidiaries or branches, which require overseas publicity should consult Industrial Section at COI Headquarters: Mr. E. Turnbull, Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU (Tel: 01-928 2345 ext. 271 – Telex 915444).

OTAR: help for exporters

Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Services and Promotion Division, Department of Trade, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757) can give you directly, or through your Regional Office, up-to-date information on the tariffs and customs regulations of overseas countries, import licensing regulations and restrictions including import quotas; certificate of origin; consular invoices and fees; labelling and marking requirements; foodstuffs, drugs and pharmaceuticals and the imports of samples. It also provides information, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, on health regulations for livestock, meat, animal products and plants and seeds. In short, OTAR can help on almost all legislation which affects the entry of British goods into overseas countries.

Inquiries which concern the countries of more than one sub-section (excluding inquiries involving only EEC countries) should be made to OTAR's co-ordination sub-section on 01-248 5757 extension 452 or 454.

For information in respect of specific countries,

ring

01-248 5757 ext.

▼ Sub-section A
Co-ordination of EEC inquiries; common customs tariff (CCT); Denmark; France and overseas territories; Greece; Turkey

408 EEC legislation on tariff and non-tariff barriers relative to community trade, EEC common agricultural policy – aspects affecting exports, Denmark (incl. Faroe Islands and Greenland)
7174
423 France and overseas departments, French overseas territories
439 Greece (incl. Dodecanese Islands), Turkey

Sub-section B
Benelux; Dutch overseas territories; Irish Republic; Italy; Federal Republic of Germany; Eastern Bloc; China

467 Federal Republic of Germany
288 Netherlands, Netherland Antilles, Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, St Eustatius, St Martin (Dutch), Saba, Surinam, Yugoslavia
466 Irish Republic, Albania, Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, USSR
288 Belgium, Luxembourg
466 Italy

Sub-section C
Efta countries (including colonies), former Portuguese territories N. Africa and Israel

459 Norway, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland
458 Israel, Egypt
460 Portugal, Finland, Iceland, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Angola, Cape Verde Islands, Macao, Principe, Sao Tome, Timor
461 Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria

Sub-section D
South and Central America

476 Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama
474 Argentina, Chile, British Antarctica Territory and Antarctica, Cuba, Haiti, Uruguay, Bolivia, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, Falkland Islands

Sub-section E
Australasia and South East Asia

401 New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, W. Samoa, Chatham Island, Cook Island, Niue Island, Tokelau Isles
468 Australia, Solomon Islands, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Islands (Indian Ocean), Nauru, Papua New Guinea, New Hebrides, Philippines
469 Brunei, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Tonga, Gilbert Islands (incl. Ocean Island, Phoenix Island, Line Island), Tuvalu, Norfolk Island, Pitcairn Island

Sub-section G
Middle and Far East

420 Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma, India, Japan, N. Korea, S. Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, Taiwan, Yemen Arab Republic, Yemen PDR
475 Kampuchea (formerly Cambodia), Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lower Gulf States (Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, United Arab Emirates), Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Sub-section F
North America; Bahamas; West Indies, etc.

7312 Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize (British Honduras), Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla, St Lucia, St Vincent, Trinidad, Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands
455 Canada
456 USA (incl. Alaska, Caroline Island, Guam, Hawaii, Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands), Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico Samoa (US), Virgin Islands (US), Wake Island

Sub-section H
Spain and possessions: Mediterranean; Africa; Sri Lanka

462 Spain, Western Sahara, Ceuta and Melilla, Andorra
471 Ascension Island, British Indian Ocean Territory, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Sri Lanka, S. Africa (with Lesotho, Swaziland, S. W. Africa and Botswana), Somalia, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Maldive Islands, Malta, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles
472 Burundi, Cameroon, Canary Islands, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Benin, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo, Upper Volta, Zaire, Equatorial Guinea
473 The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Rhodesia, Sierra Leone, Zambia

European community news

EEC/India joint commission reviews economic developments

The programme of co-operation established under the commercial co-operation agreement was reviewed by the EEC/India joint commission at their fourth meeting in Brussels on 5 and 6 October on the basis of reports by the preparatory sub-commissions. The meeting opened with a review of economic developments in India and in the EEC.

The joint commission took note of the effective trade promotion activities undertaken in relation to India in 1976. Including the financing of Indian participation in specialised trade fairs as well as visits by business delegations and missions by technical experts. The joint commission agreed to recommend that the appropriate community authorities take account of the activities proposed by the Indian government in the preparation of the community trade promotion programme for 1977.

On co-operation in specific sectors the joint commission noted with satisfaction that a 33-man engineering delegation from India was currently visiting Europe within the framework of the community's trade promotion programme, and expressed the hope that a delegation from selected sectors of the community's engineering industry might shortly visit India. The joint commission also reviewed progress in the leather and leather goods sector following the visit of a delegation of the European Confederation of the Footwear Industry to India in February 1976 and the decision to set up a joint India/EEC committee of tanners to promote co-operation between European and Indian firms in the finished leather sector.

The joint commission noted with satisfaction the increase in Indian exports of cattle feed to the community in 1976 following contacts between the Indian exporters and the EEC importers. It instructed the preparatory sub-commission to continue examining possibilities of co-operation between the community and India to increase production of cattle feed and edible oil in India, on the understanding that the cattle feed would be exported to the community, and the oil made available for consumption in India. Other important sectors reviewed included tea, fisheries, forest products and tobacco.

The joint commission also made recommendations about possible community technical assistance in the fields of public procurement, packaging, export quality testing and warehousing.

At the same time the joint commission agreed to recommend that a study be made to identify sectors in which complementarity exists or is likely to develop between India and the EEC and in which there is consequently a potential for trade orientated co-operation which would further the objectives of the commercial co-operation agreement.

The joint commission examined the report of the sub-commission on sectoral agreements and recommend further co-operation with regard to jute and coir products.

The joint commission was set up under the commercial co-operation agreement between India and the community of December 1973 and this fourth meeting was chaired by Dr P. C. Alexander, Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce of the Government of India, who led the Indian delegation. The community delegation was led by Manfred Caspari, deputy director-general for external relations at the commission.

First meeting of the EEC/Sri Lanka joint commission

There was an exchange of views on multilateral economic relations at the first meeting of the EEC/Sri Lanka joint commission in Brussels on 11 and 12 October. The two delegations expressed confidence that the EEC/Sri Lanka agreement could make a valuable contribution to mutual understanding and could lead to a mutually beneficial relationship between the contracting parties.

The joint commission dealt with the general guidelines to be followed in encouraging commercial co-operation and economic co-operation linked with trade. It also discussed the effect on Sri Lanka's exports to the community of certain tariff and non-tariff regulations; and expressed the intention to seek a solution for any problems identified in these fields not covered by the improvement of the community's generalised scheme of preferences and its offers on tropical products in the multilateral trade negotiations in Gatt.

There was also a review of the progress in the community's assistance to Sri Lanka with regard to trade promotion; and there were discussions on the scope for the extension of this assistance.

The joint commission decided to set up a sub-commission to examine in depth some proposals for co-operation between the two sides. The sub-commission will also undertake preparatory work for the second session of the joint commission which will take place in the second half of next year.

The joint commission set up under the EEC/Sri Lanka commercial co-operation agreement was chaired by Mr Tilak E. Gooneratne, Sri Lanka's ambassador to the EEC, who also led the Sri Lanka delegation. The community delegation was led by Manfred Caspari, deputy director-general for external relations in the EEC commission.

Investment opportunities for smaller firms

Arrangements have been completed between the EEC commission (European Coal and Steel Community) and Finance for Industry Ltd (FFI) for a £10 million loan facility to be made available over three years to provide small and medium sized businesses in the UK with funds for expansion programmes which involve the re-employment of redundant steel workers and coal miners in Wales, Scotland and in regions of Northern England.

For approved projects which fall within the qualifying criteria, the interest rate may be reduced by about 3 per cent from normal market levels.

Inquiries about the facility should be made to local offices of ICFC.

More community news

Information on European community matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of *Trade and Industry*. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

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European community new legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

Common agricultural policy

The texts of the following regulations which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*:

General. Regulation (EEC) 2423/76 amending regulation (EEC) 557/76 as regards the exchange rate to be applied in agriculture for the Irish pound (*Official Journal* L274, 6 October 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 2461/76 amending regulation (EEC) 571/76 following the fixing of a new exchange rate to be applied in Ireland in agriculture (*Official Journal* L279, 9 October 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 2464/76 on transistional measures concerning the application of certain monetary compensatory amounts in trade between Ireland and the UK (*Official Journal* L279, 9 October 1976).

Processed agricultural products. Regulation (EEC) 2391/76 determining the amounts of the variable components, compensatory amounts and additional duties applicable during the fourth quarter of 1976 on the importation of goods covered by regulation (EEC) 1059/69 (*Official Journal* L269, 1 October 1976).

Wine. Regulation (EEC) 2417/76 amending regulation (EEC) 2115/76 laying down detailed rules for the import of wines, grape juice and grape must (*Official Journal* L273, 6 October 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 2420/76 terminating private storage aid for table wine of the type R II (*Official Journal* L273, 6 October 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 2426/76 amending regulation (EEC) 2893/74 on sparkling wines produced in the community and specified in item 12 of annex II to regulation (EEC) 816/70 and regulation (EEC) 817/70 laying down special provisions relating to quality wines produced in specified regions (*Official Journal* L276, 7 October 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 2427/76 amending regulation (EEC) 827/68 on the common organisation of the market in certain products listed in annex II to the treaty (*Official Journal* L276, 7 October 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 2428/76 amending regulation (EEC) 1163/76 on the granting of a conversion premium in the wine sector (*Official Journal* L276, 7 October 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 2435/76 authorising the acidification of certain wine-growing products in zone C I a (*Official Journal* L276, 7 October 1976).

Fish and fish products. Regulation (EEC) 2429/76 amending annex III B to regulation (EEC) 100/76 as regards the conversion factor applicable to long-finned tunny (*Official Journal* L276, 7 October 1976).

Milk and milk products. Regulation (EEC) 2462/76 amending regulation (EEC) 677/76 laying down detailed rules for the application of the system for compulsory purchase of skimmed-milk powder (*Official Journal* L279, 9 October 1976).

Temporary suspension of import duties

Corrigendum. The *Official Journal* L276, 7 October 1976, contains the following correction to regulation (EEC) 1290/76 temporarily suspending the autonomous common customs tariff duties on certain industrial products (published in *Official Journal* L145, 3 June 1976):

Page 4:

for: 'ex 29.15 C III Dibenzyl phenymalonate',

read: 'ex 29.15 C III Benzyl phenylmalonates'.

Harmonisation of legislation

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L262, 27 September 1976, contains the texts of the following directives:

Motor vehicles and trailers. Directive 76/756/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to the installation of lighting and light-signalling devices on motor vehicles and their trailers.

Directive 76/757/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to reflex reflectors for motor vehicles and their trailers.

Directive 76/758/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to the end-outline marker lamps, front position (side) lamps, rear position (side) lamps and stop lamps for motor vehicles and their trailers.

Directive 76/759/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to direction indicator lamps for motor vehicles and their trailers.

Directive 76/760/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to the rear registration plate lamps for motor vehicles and their trailers.

Directive 76/761/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to motor-vehicle headlamps which function as main-beam and/or dipped-beam headlamps and to incandescent electric filament lamps for such headlamps.

Directive 76/762/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to front fog lamps for motor vehicles and filament lamps for such lamps.

Agricultural or forestry tractors. Directive 76/763/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to passenger seats for wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors.

Further information: Department of Industry, Vehicle Division, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LN, tel. 01-211 5658 (motor vehicles) 01-211 3601 (wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors).

Thermometers, alcoholometers, alcohol tables. Directive 76/764/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states on clinical mercury-in-glass, maximum reading thermometers.

Directive 76/765/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to alcoholometers and alcohol hydrometers.

Directive 76/766/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to alcohol tables.

Further information: Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Weights and Measures Service, 26 Chapter Street, London SW1P 4NS, tel. 01-834 7032 ext. 138.

Pressure vessels. Directive 76/767/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to common provisions for pressure vessels and methods of inspecting them.

Further information: Department of Industry, MEPT Division, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU, tel. 01-211 4134.

Cosmetic products. Directive 76/768/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to cosmetic products.

Further information: Department of Industry, Chemicals and Textiles Division, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU, tel. 01-211 7264.

Dangerous substances. Directive 76/769/EEC on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the member states relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations.

Further information: Department of Environment, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB, tel. 01-212 8588.

Units of measurement. Directive 76/770/EEC amending directive 71/354/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to units of measurement.

Further information: Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LN, tel. 01-211 6455.

Applications for copies of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* containing the legislation referred to should be made to HMSO and not to the inquiry points given in the notices.

Assignment of EEC duties

The assignment of duties connected with the European community, as well as specific responsibilities of all ministers in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Overseas Development, was the subject of a written reply by Anthony Crosland in the House of Commons on 11 October.

Mr Crosland pointed out that David Owen had succeeded Roy Hattersley as Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (see *Trade and Industry*, 24 September, page 771) and that responsibility for personnel and administration (policy aspects) had been transferred to the Lord Goronwy-Roberts.

In addition Reginald Prentice, Minister for Overseas Development, would undertake additional duties within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office so that a second cabinet minister would be available to deal with the extra burdens arising from the presidency of the EEC, which falls to the UK on 1 January 1977 and the Commonwealth conference.

Overcoming the problems of youth unemployment in the EEC

Greater co-operation within the EEC to overcome the problems of youth unemployment was called for today by John Grant, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Employment, at the opening of an EEC seminar on vocational guidance. The seminar was opened by Patrick Hillery, vice-president of the EEC commission in London on 12 October.

Welcoming the opportunity to compare the ways in which member states meet the need for vocational guidance, Mr Grant said that there was no doubt that school leavers were at the rough end of the economic crisis. There were no easy solutions. But the UK Government had done a great deal to tackle and relieve, in particular, the youth employment situation. The more member states could co-operate, the better the prospect of overcoming these acute difficulties which beset the community. He said that in Britain it was too easily forgotten that 'this is a problem which runs not only throughout the community, but looking still further afield job creation for an increasing work population is a problem which assumes frightening worldwide dimensions which none of us can sensibly or morally ignore'.

Mr Grant paid tribute to the active interest in these problems taken by the institutions of the community, and the practical help given to some of the government's measures from the European social fund.

In the UK vocational guidance had its longest tradition in initial career choice. The careers service offered expert advice and guidance to youngsters making the crucial transition from education to employment.

Mr Grant also outlined the government's new initiatives for unified vocational preparation to help young people cope with this transition.

'Here the education and training services are collaborating at all levels in what promises to be an exciting experiment which may lead to new arrangements to assist the large numbers of young people who leave school with few or no qualifications and, subsequently, receive little systematic training or further education.'

Finally Mr Grant said that there was a very real and growing need for vocational guidance to adults already in the labour market. 'We have to recognise that we live in a changing society in which a lifetime commitment to one job or one occupation is no longer dominant. Technological change is such that the most effective training is often that which is broadly based and enables the individual to develop his skills later in life. Even so, some people will feel the need for many reasons to branch out into other fields'.

The three-day seminar, which was organised by the commission in co-operation with the UK government, was the eighth in a series of seminars which have been held in member states since 1966. Their aim is to provide a full picture of vocational guidance and to promote the exchange of views and of experience among officials responsible for vocational guidance services in the community.

Prime Minister goes to Paris

The Prime Minister will visit France on 11 to 12 November for talks with President Giscard D'Estaing. He will be accompanied by Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Anthony Crosland, Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, and John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The visit, which is at the invitation of President Giscard D'Estaing, is the first in the series of annual meetings agreed upon during the President's state visit to Britian in June.

UK to press for more liberal beef import arrangements

Britain would continue to press in the community for the introduction of more liberal arrangements for importing beef from countries outside the EEC. The pledge was given by John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, when he met representatives of the UK meat trade – on 12 October to hear the views of the National Council of Associations of Fresh Meat Wholesalers, the Imported Meat Trade Association, the Association of British Abattoir Owners, and the National Federation of Meat Traders.

Mr Silkin acknowledged the concern that the meat trade felt over the need to maintain beef consumption in the UK and to avoid large quantities of beef going into intervention. He pointed out that the major factor determining the beef market now and over the coming months was not intervention but the fall in home-produced supplies. This had inevitably had an impact on prices.

He said that in order to help maintain adequate supplies for consumers, it would be his aim to continue with the policy that intervention for beef should not play the primary role in supporting the beef market.

NCB to receive further ECSC loan of £27.5 million

The EEC Commission has announced the approval of a further loan of £27.5 million to the National Coal Board. The loan, which is made under article 54 of the European Coal and Steel Community treaty will help to finance seven investment projects to be carried out by the board.

The projects are as follows:

Coalfield	Colliery	Project
North Yorkshire	Ackton Hall	Extension of underground workings. (Haigh Moor Seam).
Doncaster	Brodsworth	New winding and materials handling facilities.
South Notts	Bentinck	Electrification of winding engines.
North Notts	Bevercotes	Extension of underground workings (Top Hart Seam).
North Notts	Silverhill	Extension of underground workings. (Black Hale Seam).
Staffordshire	Silverdale	Extension of underground workings. (Keele/Hanchurch reserves).
North Western	Bold, St Helens	Installation of skip winding facilities.

Taken as a whole, these seven projects will help to maintain existing coal extraction potential of some 6.4 million tonnes a year. They will also increase extraction potential by over 1.5 million tonnes a year to offset closures elsewhere.

The ECSC loan to finance the projects is made in the context of the community's objective of a stabilisation of the output of coal suitable for electricity. The collieries to receive help from the loan plan to despatch most of their output to power stations.

The loan to the board will be paid out in instalments according to progress on the projects and the terms of each instalment will depend on market conditions at the time.

Consultations under the Lomé convention

Procedures for consultation between the EEC and ACP countries in respect of the implementation of the Lomé convention were explained by Minister for Overseas Development, Reginald Prentice, in a written parlia-

Generalised tariff preference scheme (GSP): restoration of normal duties

Trade and Industry of 27 February, 19 March, 16 April, 21 May, 18 June, 23 July, 20 August and 24 September gave details of GSP tariff quotas exhausted and GSP ceilings reached up to 6 September. HM Customs have stated that the position on the restoration of normal duties for the month ending 10 October is as follows:

I TARIFF QUOTAS AND SPECIAL CEILINGS

Tariff heading	Description of goods	Customs quota reference*	Date UK quota share exhausted	Community butoir reached: duty to be re-imposed	
				On date	For goods from
39.03.BI (S/C)	Regenerated cellulose	1499		8.9.76	Yugoslavia
44.14.B (S/C)	Wood sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled but not further prepared, etc. – Other	1677		13.9.76	Brazil
55.05.BII	Cotton yarn, not put up for retail sale: Other, measuring per single yarn, per kg – 14,000m or less	3503	18.5.76	11.9.76	India
69.02 (S/C)	Refracting bricks, blocks, tiles and similar refractory constructional goods, other than goods falling within heading no. 69.01	4363		21.9.76	Yugoslavia

* See HM Customs Tariff, Part 11.
S/C denotes Special Ceiling.

II CEILINGS

Tariff heading	Description of goods	Date of restoration of duties	
		From all sources	From particular sources (inner ceilings)
28.19	Zinc oxide and zinc peroxide		Yugoslavia 8.10.76
54.03	Flax or ramie yarn, not put up for retail sale		Brazil 8.10.76
ex 73.32.BII	Woodscrews		Hong Kong 27.9.76
85.18	Electrical capacitors, fixed or variable		South Korea 8.10.76

Inquiries about current availability of preferences may be made to HM Customs and Excise, Central Tariff Quota Registration Unit, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, tel. 01-626 1515 ext. 2570.

Tariff quotas 1976 – exhaustions

HM Customs have stated that the UK's shares of the following EEC tariff quotas have been exhausted:

UK tariff heading	Description of goods	HM Customs serial no (Part 11 of the UK tariff
73.02.D	Ferro-silico-manganese	4517
ex 73.02.EI	Ferro-chromium containing not less than 4% by weight of carbon	4797
ex 77.01.AII	Unwrought magnesium containing 99.8% or more by weight but less than 99.95% by weight of pure magnesium	4959

The UK's share of the following EEC tariff quota for imports from Portugal has also been exhausted:

UK tariff heading	Description of goods	HM Customs serial no (Part 11 of the UK tariff)
ex 22.05	Madeira wines	1286

The following UK tariff quotas for imports of paper and board and printed products from individual Efta countries and Finland (see *Trade and Industry* of 12 December 1975) have also been exhausted:

UK tariff heading	Country of origin	HM Customs serial no (Part 11 of the UK tariff)
All goods of Ch 48 not covered by a separate quota excluding goods of subheading 48.01.A and heading 48.09	Switzerland	3007
ex 48.01.EI	Finland	2257
ex 48.01.EIIb)	Norway	2133
ex 48.01.EII	Finland	2389
ex 48.07.B	Finland	2702
ex 48.01.CII	Sweden	1898
ex 48.07.BIc)1	Austria	2591

Inquiries about current tariff quota balances may be made to HM Customs and Excise, Central Tariff Quota Registration Unit, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, tel. 01-626 1515 ext. 2570.

mentary answer on 13 October.

In reply to a question from Frank Hooley, Mr Prentice said that the Lomé convention made detailed provision for consultation between the EEC and ACP countries and had set up for the purpose a joint council of ministers, a committee of ambassadors and a consultative assembly, in each of which both groups of countries were represented.

He pointed out that last June the member states of the community took a number of detailed decisions as proposed by the European commission laying down procedures for informing the ACP states of proposals or recommendations and for applying the procedures for consultation under the Lomé convention. He said that he hoped that when these new procedures were put fully into operation, whatever defects may have emerged in the arrangements would have been corrected.

It had also been agreed, he said, that in order to follow up various points raised at the first meeting of the joint council of ministers, the president of the EEC council of ministers would meet the president of the ACP ministers in November*.

* The meeting was brought forward to Wednesday this week (20 October).

Sealing arrangements for community transit

With effect from 1 November 1976 all containers or vehicles with full loads of the goods shown below entered under the full community transit procedure (T1, T2, T3), which are for consignment to or across the community, must be officially sealed by customs at exportation.

These sealing arrangements will apply to the following goods:

Meat
Fish
Cereals and rice
Milk powder
Butter
Cheese
Sugar and molasses
Coffee, cocoa and tea

Traders should ensure that containers or vehicles are presented to customs in time for their intended ferry sailing. Failure to have containers or vehicles officially sealed at exportation may lead to delays and difficulties at customs frontiers in the EEC.

If there is any doubt about the suitability of a vehicle or container for sealing, traders should contact the customs at the place where export formalities are to be completed.

A notice in the 4 June 1976 edition (p. 605) of *Trade and Industry* drew attention to the requirement that exports of goods under the full community transit procedure which were consigned to or across Austria and Switzerland must be officially sealed at export from the UK. This requirement came into force on 1 July 1976.

Tariff quotas 1976: replenishment

In accordance with the EEC council regulations on the opening of tariff quotas, member states are required to hand back a certain proportion of any quota shares which are unused at 15 September to the community reserves. Such amounts are subsequently available for other member states who may need additional shares. The UK's initial shares and the then available community reserves were exhausted for the quotas listed below earlier in the year, but the UK is now able to claim on the replenished reserves. HM Customs is therefore considering claims for quota relief in the order that any importer enters eligible goods for home use and claims relief from duty on and after 7 October 1976.

Customs will require claimants to pay duty on deposit at the non-quota rate (or to give alternative security) until the allocation of the replenished quotas has been determined.

Any importer who has entered goods of these descriptions with the customs on or after 7 October but who has not claimed the benefit of the appropriate quota should now do so by writing to HM Customs and Excise, Central Tariff Quota Registration Unit, Room 260, Kings Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, giving the following details:

Port of importation
Ship (aircraft) or warehouse and date
Entry no. and date
Quota serial no. (see part 11 of the tariff)
Entered weight of goods (in the case of handloom fabric the entered value)

Claims must be received by HM Customs by 31 December 1976.

Importations from other member states of the EEC for which a quota rate is claimed in accordance with paragraph 6 of the preamble to part 11 of the tariff will be released against deposit of duty at the M rate pending determination of the period of validity of the quota rate. Any retrospective claim for such rate should be made direct to the Central Tariff Quota Unit giving the details listed above.

Inquiries about this notice should be made to General Division 2, Department of Trade, Room 333, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

Temporary suspension of the EEC common customs tariff

The UK has applied to the EEC commission for a total suspension of the CCT duty until 30 June 1977 on the product set out below:

Tariff heading	Description
07.04 A	Dried, dehydrated or evaporated onions

If any UK companies are already manufacturing the product, or expect to do so shortly, and believe that a suspension of import duty would be detrimental to their interests, they should notify the Department of Trade in writing not later than 29 October, at the following address: Department of Trade, General Division, Room 332, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, tel. 01-215 3576.

EEC/Portugal additional protocol

In an article on page 25 of the 1 October issue of *Trade and Industry* details were given of the provisions of this protocol. An order (The Import Duties (General) (No 7) Order 1976 SI 1976 No 1677) has now been made implementing with effect from 1 November the reductions in the rates of import duty on certain goods of Portugal. Copies of the order will be available shortly from HMSO. Further details can be obtained from the Department of Trade's General Division, tel. 01-215 5544/3713.

Reimposition of EEC duties on certain Swedish paper products and ferro-alloys

With effect from 14 October 1976 an order has been made, increasing duties on imports of certain paper and paperboard and ferro-alloys originating in Sweden. The relevant EEC regulations nos 2418/76, 2419/76 and 2421/76, made under the terms of the EEC's agreement with Sweden, protocol 1, were published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*, L.273 of 6 October 1976.

The order, the Import Duties (General) (No. 8) Order 1976 (SI 1976/1687) affects certain goods of tariff heading ex 48.01.E. (Bible paper (India paper), copying tissue; other printing paper and other writing paper, not containing mechanical wood pulp or in which mechanical wood pulp does not represent more than 5 per cent); paper (other than coated printing or writing paper) falling within tariff heading ex 48.07.B.; and ferro-chromium and ferro-silico-chromium of tariff heading 73.02E.

The rates of duty chargeable from 14 October until 31 December 1976 on these goods of 48.01.E. and 48.07.B., if previously chargeable with duty at 6 per cent, will be 9.6 per cent. For goods of these descriptions originating in Sweden not hitherto eligible for the 6 per cent duty (but for a rate of 8 per cent) the 'full' rates of duty set out in HM Custom's tariff will be chargeable. The rates of duty chargeable on goods of 73.02.E. which satisfy the origin provisions of article 25(1) of protocol no 3 to the EEC agreement with Sweden will be 6.4 per cent for E.I. and 5.6 per cent for E.II.; for goods of 73.02.E. originating in Sweden but not satisfying these provisions the 'full' rates of duty set out in HM Custom's tariff will be chargeable (instead of nil for 73.02.E.I. and E.II.a) and 1 per cent for 73.02E.II.b)).

Inquiries should be addressed to General Division 2, Department of Trade, Room 333, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, tel. 01-215 5490.

Tariff quotas replenished as from 7 October 1976

EEC regulation and *Official Journal* reference	Tariff heading or subheading	Description of goods	Country	Additional quantity
3144/75; *OJ* L317 of 8.12.75	08.05 G.I. ex II.	Hazelnuts, not in shell Hazelnuts in shell	Turkey	138.45 tonnes
3150/75; *OJ* L317 of 8.12.75	55.05	Cotton yarn, not put up for retail sale	Malta	4 tonnes
3361/75; *OJ* L336 of 31.12.75	ex 55.07 ex 55.09 ex 58.04	Cotton gauze, **woven on handlooms** Other woven fabrics of cotton, **woven on handlooms** Woven pile fabrics and chenille fabrics of cotton (other than terry towelling or similar terry fabrics falling within heading 55.08 and fabrics falling within heading 58.05), **woven on handlooms**	Bangladesh, India, Laos, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, El Salvador	£15,180
3153/75; *OJ* L317 of 8.12.75	61.01	Men's and boys' outer garments	Malta	12 tonnes
126/76; *OJ* L14 of 23.1.76	ex 77.01 A.II.	Unwrought magnesium containing 99.8% or more by weight but less than 99.95% by weight of magnesium	All third countries	1.12 tonnes
2878/75; *OJ* L292 of 12.11.75	78.01 A.II.	Unwrought lead, other than bullion lead for refining	All third countries	1,175 tonnes
2879/75; *OJ* L292 of 12.11.75	79.01 A.	Unwrought zinc	All third countries	164.4 tonnes

Tell the world about your exports – through the BBC

Every day the BBC tells the world about British business, industry, finance, technology, agriculture and science.
If you have an interesting story about British inventions and successes or outstanding export orders, why not tell the BBC about it?
Firms are often named and many thousands of inquiries are fed back each year.
A leaflet headed 'Tell the world' is available.
Write to Export Liaison Unit, BBC External Services, Bush House, London WC2B 4PH or phone 01-240 3456, ext. 2039 (telex 265781, cables Broadcasts London W1).

EEC – your questions answered

This week, we are publishing a selection of questions put to the Department of Industry's EEC Information Unit during the past month.

The unit helps businessmen by answering general questions about EEC membership. Its prime responsibility is with those matters which are the concern of the Department of Industry, Trade Prices and Consumer Protection, but it is usually possible to direct an inquirer to sources of specialist advice in other Government departments.

Contact the unit by ringing 01-215 4301 (six lines) or by writing to the EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Regional development fund: help for UK

Q. What help is available from the European regional development fund for United Kingdom investment projects?

A. The council formally adopted EEC regulation 724/75 setting up the European regional development fund in March 1975. The fund amounts to 1,300 million units of account (mua) (about £540 million) which the commission may commit to eligible projects in 1975 (300 mua), 1976 (500 mua) and 1977 (500 mua).

The UK may claim up to 28 per cent of the fund (about £150 million) as a contribution to the cost of:

1 industrial, handicraft and service (tourist) industry projects receiving UK regional aid – grants under the Industry Act 1972, for example. Such projects must be economically sound and either provide at least 10 new jobs or maintain employment as part of a conversion or restructuring plan designed to make an undertaking more competitive.
2 infrastructure projects directly linked with industrial, handicraft or service activities and financed, wholly or in part, by public authorities
3 infrastructure projects located in the less-favoured areas defined in EEC directive 268/75 on mountain and hill farming.

All projects must be located in the assisted areas and priority is given to those in special development and development areas and Northern Ireland over those in intermediate areas.

For qualifying industrial and other projects the fund may contribute 20 per cent of the cost of the investment provided it does not exceed 50 per cent of the aid given by the UK government. Moreover, the amount of the investment which may be taken into account by the fund may not exceed 100,000 ua per job created and 50,000 ua per job maintained. For infrastructure projects costing less than 10 mua (about £4.2 million) the fund may contribute 30 per cent of the public authority expenditure; for projects over 10 mua the fund contribution may be between 10 per cent and 30 per cent.

The Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority is receiving over £1.5 million from the European regional development fund for two new berths seen here under construction at Tees Dock, Eston, Cleveland. (Photo: Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority).

Using receipts from the fund

Q. How are receipts from the regional development fund used?

A. The regulation provides that each member state may use the fund contribution either to supplement national aid or as a partial repayment of that aid. The UK government had decided that receipts from the fund should supplement existing expenditure.

So far as infrastructure projects are concerned, the receipts from the fund will be passed to the responsible authority. Most infrastructure investment by local and other public authorities is financed by borrowing so the receipts in respect of infrastructure will reduce the amount of borrowing necessary to finance the project. Given the present need to restrict public expenditure, however, the government is not prepared to authorise authorities to undertake additional projects because of assistance from the fund.

So far as industrial projects are concerned, the government has decided not to pass receipts from the fund to the promoters of individual projects because:

1 only projects which benefit from national incentives to locate or expand in the assisted areas are eligible for the fund. Therefore the incentive has already been effective and it would be wasteful to make any additional payment.
2 there are community limits on the level of public sector aids which may be granted to industrial projects. In many cases these limits would be exceeded if fund contributions were added to the UK incentives given.
3 only a small number of industrial projects receiving UK incentives could benefit from the fund because of its modest size (£150 million over three years). It would be

impossible without gross unfairness to select some projects for extra assistance from the fund while others – equally valuable in terms of national criteria – were not selected.

The government has decided to use the receipts from industrial applications to the fund to go ahead with a greater total of regional investment than could have been managed without the fund. For example, the size of the programme of advanced factory building in the assisted areas announced in September 1975 was fixed after account had been taken of likely receipts from the fund.

Making applications to the fund

Q. How are applications to the regional development fund made?

A. All applications to the fund must be made by the government. The Departments of Industry, Trade and the Environment, the Scottish Office, the Welsh Office and Northern Ireland departments as appropriate will contact the public authorities responsible for infrastructure projects and the promoters of suitable industrial projects about the submission of applications to the fund. All applications are forwarded to the EEC commission by the Department of Industry.

In selecting projects to put forward, departments have to take account of the provisions of the fund regulations, the views of the commission, the community's committee set up to manage the fund and the community's regional policy committee. Other important factors to be considered are the location of particular projects, projects suggested by local and other public authorities, the views of investors and the priorities of the government's regional policy.

Fund aid for tourism

Q. Does the tourist industry qualify for help from the European regional development fund?

A. To qualify for consideration projects must first be receiving financial assistance from a National Tourist Board under section 4 of the Development of Tourism Act 1969, or from the Northern Ireland Department of Commerce or the Highlands and Islands Development Board under appropriate legislation, and must also satisfy the other criteria in the fund regulation for industrial investment.

Infrastructure projects in assisted areas directly linked with the development of tourism may also qualify.

Fund receipts relating to tourism investment are used in the UK in the same way as receipts for industry and infrastructure projects generally.

New directive on units of measurement

Q. I understand there is a new EEC directive amending directive 71/354/EEC on units of measurement. How will this affect UK manufacturers and our trade with EEC countries.

A. The original directive 71/354/EEC of 18 October 1971, made under article 100 of the EEC treaty, established the common use throughout the community of the international (metric) system of units of measurement (SI). It provided for the exclusive use of SI units from 21 April 1978 onwards over a wide area, not only in the economic field, but also in the public health and safety and administrative activities. In our treaty negotiations it was agreed that the community would continue to recognise imperial units in UK legislation until the end of 1979, unless we agreed to dispense with any units sooner or secured the agreement of the community before 31 August 1976 to an extension of the use of particular units because of special considerations.

As reported in *Trade and Industry* of 13 August 1976 this amending directive (76/770/EEC) of 27 July 1976 mitigates the obligations assumed under the treaty of accession and more accurately reflects the progress of metrication in the UK. Annexes 1 and 2 of the previous directive are replaced by a single annex containing four chapters. Chapter A substantially reproduces chapter 1 of annex 1 and sets out the units of measurement the use of which is definitively authorised. Chapter B replaces chapter 3 of annex 1 and sets out the units which are to disappear from use as soon as possible and at the latest by 31 December 1977; in this chapter are included not only units which appeared in chapter 3 but also certain imperial units from annex 2. Chapter C sets out the units which are to disappear from use as soon as possible, and at the latest by 31 December 1979, and includes not only units appearing in chapter 2 of annex 1 but also some imperial units from annex 2. Chapter D sets out the remaining imperial units from annex 2 and some additional units the authorisation of which is to be reviewed by 31 December 1979 and the use of which might be permitted after that date, although it is proposed that they should disappear from use eventually. These amendments give more flexibility for the phasing out of imperial units than was given by the amendment agreed on our accession to the community. Chapter D allows us more time to consider the most commonly used imperial units, pint, pound, etc., before deciding on their future.

This directive does not affect the basic commitment to adopt SI units and indeed we are still obliged not to discriminate against the use of the SI units prescribed in chapter A – for example in the description of goods coming into the country from other member states – from 21 April 1978 onwards. We shall however retain the right to require an imperial marking as well as metric where necessary.

Not only the UK and the Irish Republic are involved in making changes in their units. Other member states, although already metric, will be dispensing with what are now obsolescent metric units in implementing the requirements of this important directive.

The text of the directive (71/354) appears in the white paper on metrication, cmnd. 4880, which is available from HMSO price 26½p. The text of the amending directive appeared in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*, L262 of 27 September 1976, available from HMSO price £2.55.

Additional information can be obtained from Metrology, Quality Assurance and Standards Division (Branch 2), Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LN, tel. 01-211 6455.

Free service for businessmen!
The EEC Information Unit helps firms of all types and sizes by answering general questions about EEC membership and by guiding them where necessary to more specialised information sources.
New customers are always welcome, particularly firms new to EEC questions.
The unit's address is: EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.
Tel. 01-215 4301 (six lines).

Overseas trade news

General import controls no answer to unemployment – Dell

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, warned against the imposition of wide-ranging import controls as an alternative to export-led economic growth. In a speech on 15 October at the Merseyside Industries dinner, he said 'Export-led growth can still remain the cornerstone of the government's economic policy.

'This is the only rational and viable policy to follow in our present situation. Wide-ranging import controls, whether a general scheme or a much greater accumulation of selective controls, are not an alternative.

'They would not, as is claimed, solve unemployment. They would not offer a quick and painless means of correcting the balance of payments. On the contrary, to prevent the diversion of exports and the acceleration of inflation, they would have to be accompanied by substantial deflationary measures.'

Mr Dell went on to outline the dangers of retaliation. They were real, he said, and could not be shrugged away. 'It is sometimes argued that because we have a large trade deficit we have a claim to be treated as a special case. We are not a special case; other countries also have large deficits.'

Mr Dell stressed that other countries would be entitled to retaliate under international agreements to which all countries were committed.

But, Mr Dell said, 'the temporary use of selective controls – of the types we now have – in cases where the survival of particular industries is threatened by excessive imports is another matter. That is why we welcome the CBI-TUC memorandum as a basis for discussion and consideration.'

Mr Dell had reminded his audience that British exporters were doing well. Volume was up 8 per cent compared with the second half of 1975. The UK achieved 10 per cent share of the Opec market in the first quarter of 1976, and exports to the EEC, the rest of Europe and to North America were increasingly sharply. The UK had a surplus of £2 billion in exports of manufactured goods over imports of manufactured goods. The problem, Mr Dell said, was to get this surplus, along with the surplus on our invisibles, big enough to cover the cost of Britain's imports of food, fuel and raw materials.

He went on to say that the position was now not so bright but for the moment it was no more than a little disappointing. He explained that after the very sharp recovery from the recession of 1974-75, there was now a marked slowing down in the rate of growth. This was not a problem exclusive to the UK. Figures of industrial production showed similar patterns in the United States and in Germany and indeed elsewhere in Europe. So all the people whose business it was to predict trends were now revising their expectations for the rest of this year in a downward direction.

Mr Dell said he saw no reason to be too gloomy about all this. 'There is no sign that we are heading for another recession. The world is probably simply changing gear to a more moderate rate of expansion'

And even with this pause, some of the UK exports had done very well indeed. Chemicals, textiles and metals had come back strongly this year following the low levels they reached in 1975. In the third quarter of this year they were more than 20 per cent up in volume compared with the previous year.

What the government wanted to see now was an increase in investment in the major industrial economies.

'I believe', said Mr Dell, 'that after this temporary pause exports should start growing again. Exports are now not only competitive. They are increasingly profitable. Export prices have been moving up faster than domestic prices. The confidence and optimism of our exporters, based upon the competitiveness and profitability of our exports, are encouraging signs for the future.'

Stainless steel imports: Anti-dumping duty imposed on Spain

With effect from 25 October, a provisional anti-dumping duty of 10 per cent has been imposed on Spanish stainless steel imports.

The move was revealed by Michael Meacher, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade, on 18 October in answer to questions in the House of Commons about allegations of the dumping of special steels in the UK.

Mr Meacher said that 'The British Independent Steel Producers Association had submitted a series of anti-dumping applications covering various types of special steel from Japan, Spain, Austria and Sweden. The Japanese case was handled by way of joint EEC/UK talks with the Japanese authorities, with an outcome certainly better than could have been achieved by formal anti-dumping action. Regarding the other cases, at Britain's request the European commission had approached the Swedish and Austrian authorities.

'On Spain,' Mr Meacher said, 'I have just had Bispa's report on the recent industry-to-industry talks. While some progress has been made I do not believe it fully meets our industry's needs and consequently I have today signed an order imposing a provisional charge to duty on Spanish stainless steel imports.'

Secretary of State's visitors from Japan

Leaders of the Japanese Keidanren mission to the UK called on Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, on 18 October. Pictured are (left to right) Toshio Doko (Keidanren, president), Nihachiro Hanamura (vice president), Masaya Miyoshi, Alan Pinnell (EJU), Hamish McGhie (special adviser to the Department of Trade on the Japanese market) and Mr Dell; the meeting was also attended by Yoshizo Ikeda (president, Mitsui and Co Ltd), Takio Kato (Japanese ambassador) and Tsugio Ibayashi (Keidouren). During the meeting Mr Dell identified the main problems in Anglo-Japanese trade. In response Mr Doko made it clear that Japan understood the problems and wanted to increase her imports of manufactured goods from the UK. The Keidanren also had two days of discussions with the CBI, as well as a formal meeting with the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The order* imposes a provisional charge to anti-dumping duty of 10 per cent *ad valorem* on imports of all types, sizes and shapes of stainless steel bars and billets from Spain. A provisional charge is not a duty as such, but a security in the form of a cash deposit which will be required from importers or their authorised agents by HM Customs and Excise for the payment of any definitive anti-dumping duty which may be subsequently imposed.

Such a definitive anti-dumping duty may be made retrospective to the date of imposition of the provisional charge but not before, and the rate of any retrospective duty cannot be higher than the provisional charge.

If an order imposing a retrospective duty is not made before the provisional charge lapses or is revoked, the deposits will be returned. If such an order is made, the deposits will be set off against the duty. If the period or rate of the retrospective duty is less than that of the provisional charge, the appropriate repayments will be made.

The provisional charge will be imposed for three months while the Department of Trade conducts a full investigation into the allegations of dumping. If they are upheld, the provisional charge will be replaced by a substantive anti-dumping duty. If they are not, the provisional charge will be lifted and the money (deposited with HM Customs and Excise) returned to the importers.

A statement of the applicants' case will be supplied to interested parties who give an undertaking to treat the information in strict confidence. Any representations should be submitted in writing not later than Friday, 12 November 1976. Such representations in summarised form and without attribution to the source may be passed to the applicants for comment. Those making representations should stipulate any particular matters which they do not wish to be disclosed.

Requests for copies of this statement together with an undertaking in the terms set out above should be sent in writing to General Division, Department of Trade, Room 348, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

* Copies of the order – Anti-Dumping (Provisional Charge to Duty) (No. 3) Order 1976 – imposing these charges is available from HMSO, 49 High Holborn, London WC1, or by post from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1.

Documentation for Iraq

The Arab-British chamber of commerce have recently introduced an Arab-British chamber of commerce Certificate of Origin for which they or their agents will also undertake certification. It is reliably understood that the form of certificate of origin issued by any UK chamber of commerce designated as an issuing body may continue to be used indefinitely.

For the time being the Arab-British chamber of commerce form is acceptable for firms in the Greater London area, but it is expected that this procedure will be extended to firms in other areas.

Inquiries from British exporters may be addressed to OTAR Section, Export Data Branch, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 475/7062/420.)

Trade with Iran: seminar

Farnham Castle, the Centre for International Briefing, is the venue for a businessmen's course on trade with Iran sponsored by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. It will be held from 22 to 24 November.

Topics to be covered include: the industrial scene; UK/Iran trade relations; exporting to Iran. Using the media in Iran. There will also be business opportunities workshops with syndicates covering, consumer goods, capital goods services and infrastructure.

Further details can be obtained from Mr D. L. Price, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 69 Cannon Street, London EC4N 5AB.

Register of Silver Jubilee commemorative products

Overseas inquiries are already being received about products specifically designed to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee. A register of manufacturers of commemorative products is therefore to be compiled as a means to respond quickly and comprehensively to such requests for information.

Manufacturers are invited to provide details of their products to Room F09 General Export Services Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Department of Trade, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU.

The attention of manufacturers is drawn to the rules governing the commercial use of Royal photographs and devices. Details of the relaxations of these rules in respect of the Silver Jubilee are obtainable from the Lord Chamberlain's Office, St James' Palace, London SW1.

UK offices of West German industry representatives combine

Both the representative office of the Federation of German Industries in London (BDI) and the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce are now at the same address, 11 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EE.

The director of the chamber, Klaus Balzer, has been appointed the new head of the representative office of the BDI in London after his predecessor, Hans Stork, retired after many years of service in the UK.

Second export seminar jewellery and giftware

A second export seminar is being arranged by the Export Council for the Jewellery and Giftware Industries in the Goldsmiths Hall, London, on 16 November starting at 10 a.m. The first seminar was held in June in Birmingham.

As with the previous event, the speakers will include representatives of the British Overseas Trade Board, the Export Credits Guarantee Department, the Central Office of Information and a leading bank.

Further details can be obtained from Mr J. W. F. McConnell, Export Council for the Jewellery and Giftware Industries, St Dunstan's House, Carey Lane, London EC2V 8AA, tel. 01-606 2451.

Prentice: developing countries can help UK economy

Reg Prentice, Minister for Overseas Development, opening the Impo/Expo exhibition on 12 October at the World Trade Centre, Tower Hill, London said that it was another opportunity for Britain to demonstrate, albeit in a comparatively small way, that for all the difficulties, the UK has not turned its back on the developing world, where the problems are infinitely greater.

Mr Prentice went on to say that it was only in a context of expanding world trade – in which the developing countries have their part to play – that Britain would hope to find a market for the exports which the UK must sell, and so place our economy on a firm footing. Exports to the countries exhibiting at last year's Impo/Expo totalled £1,700 million and the UK had a visible trade surplus with them of £350 million.

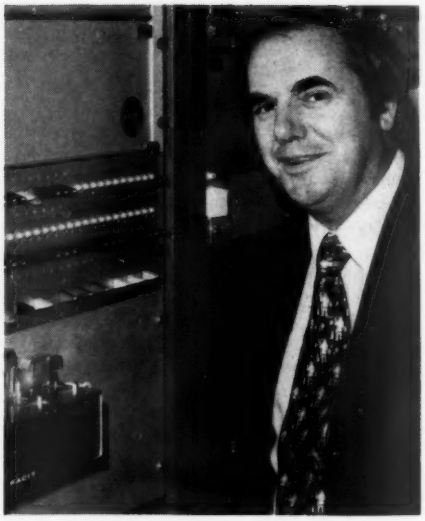
Moroccan visitor

Secretary of State for Trade, Edmund Dell, pictured with M Ghissassi, Moroccan Minister of Commerce, Industry Mines and Merchant Marine (right) when they met for a brief discussion of commercial relations between the two countries on 14 October.

NW export sales personality chosen

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, presented a cheque for £250 and a trophy to Mr S. G. Reeves of Plessey Telecommunications Ltd. Mr Reeves has been chosen by an independent panel of experts, headed by James Neill, chairman of James Neill Holdings Ltd, and of CBI's Export Panel, as North West Export Sales Personality of the Year. He was chosen for his work as the leader of a specialist team whose aim was to increase the Plessey share of the public telephone switching business in export market.

The competition, which attracted a wide entry, was organised by the local CBI Study Group on Industrial Achievement. Their aim was to recognise the contribution of individuals in increasing exports from Merseyside. As Michael Tarling, convenor of the study group said: 'We know that successful exporting requires co-ordinated effort by many people. But often groups are stimulated by the ideas and energy of single individuals. It was these individuals that our contest was intended to recognise and encourage. We feel the high quality of the entries emphasise the high quality of the much-maligned British manager.'



Mr S. G. Reeves

Mission to southern California

As a result of a preliminary fact-finding visit to southern California earlier this year, the North East Scotland Development Association decided to arrange a trade mission for a variety of industrial and commercial firms to this part of the United States.

The mission, to be based in Los Angeles, will allow participants to investigate and promote export sales or to examine the potential for joint ventures, licensing agreements and contracts.

The full co-operation and assistance of the office of the British consulate-general in Los Angeles is assured. The mission has the backing of the British Overseas Trade Board under the outward mission.

Further details can be obtained from the North-East Scotland Development Association, 20 Union Terrace, Aberdeen AB1 1NN, tel. Aberdeen (0224) 55971.

Montreal chamber visits UK

Members of the Montreal Chamber of Commerce attended a briefing meeting at the Department of Trade in London. The party was making a fact-finding tour of Britain and France, their objective being 'to acquire a better understanding of the economic, social and political life of the countries visited.' Michael Meacher, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade, who recently visited Quebec, welcomed the party of French/Canadian businessmen. Lord Garnock of the BOTB's North American Advisory Group, spoke on Anglo-Canadian trade and Brian Willott, assistant secretary in the Department of Industry's Industrial and Commercial Policy Division, spoke on the British government's industrial strategy. The photograph shows Mr Meacher (left) with Jean Tetreault, president of the Montreal chamber.

Hopes of better response to Export Year in Northern Ireland

Roy Earnshaw, Export Year adviser was the guest speaker at the Institute of Export luncheon held on 11 October in Belfast.

Mr Earnshaw explained that since Export Year was launched in June, 630 companies throughout the UK were now committed to taking part. He expressed concern that only nine of these companies were from Northern Ireland.

The national campaign started on 1 June and runs right through to the end of 1977. This will give each firm an opportunity to choose the 12-month period which is most convenient for its own export year.

Mr Earnshaw expressed the hope that as a result of his visit to Northern Ireland more companies would commit themselves to taking part in Export Year.

Birmingham chamber to visit Yugoslavia

Yugoslavia is the destination for a Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry trade mission leaving the UK on 7 November. It will be led by one of the marketing executives for Europe of steering gear manufacturers Burman and Sons Ltd, Mr A. P. White. This will be the first time that a representative of the Birmingham-based company has led such a mission, but Mr White's involvement with East European trade has already been extensive and he is a member of the chamber's East European executive committee.

Each of the 14 businessmen going has existing connections in the country although a high proportion of them have not been before. Their aim will be to foster trading links by means of a packed itinerary arranged with the help of the chamber.

Small firms mission opportunities

Two educational missions which provide a good opportunity for companies with less than 200 employees and who have not exported to Germany previously to study the market potential are being arranged by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The first is from 7–9 February 1977 and is timed to co-incide with the 'Envitec' exhibition on environmental pollution control. The second, from 12–14 February will coincide with the Hardware exhibition, the Houseware exhibition and the 'Domo technica' exhibitions.

Further details can be obtained from Anita Russell London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 69 Cannon Street, London EC4N 5AB (tel. 01-248 4444).

Invitations open for Bucharest spring fair

A British pavilion is being organised by the Department of Trade at the Bucharest international chemistry show to be held from 7 to 15 May 1977. The show will be a new extention to the spring fair (Tibco), now established as a mainly consumer goods fair. It will provide firms with an opportunity to display capital equipment and products in an industry which forms a highly important sector in the present five-year-plan.

The show will include the following product areas: machinery, equipment and installations for the chemical, plastics and rubber industry; measuring, control and supervision machines and apparatus, laboratory installations and apparatus; chemicals; pharmaceuticals, dental material; raw materials for the chemical, petrochemical and pharmaceutical industry; plastic articles for industrial use and consumer goods, rubber articles, tyres; cosmetics and perfumery, soaps; oils, lubricants, paraffin, ceresine; photographic materials, packings for chemicals.

The department will be able to offer support for only one major event in Romania during 1977 and that if a viable group of companies can be obtained for the chemistry show the department will not be supporting the Bucharest international technical exhibition (Technoexpo) in October.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from W. M. McKinnon, Department of Trade, Fairs and Promotions Branch, Hillgate House, 26 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 604.

British marine and offshore presentation in Brazil

In a three-day conference and exhibition to be staged in Rio de Janeiro from 22 to 24 November next, British marine and offshore equipment suppliers will demonstrate what they have to offer these rapidly developing Brazilian industries. The presentation is being mounted at the Hotel Gloria by the British Marine Equipment Council (BMEC) in co-operation with the Offshore Supplies Office (OSO) of the Department of Energy and the British Overseas Trade Board. Brazilian co-sponsoring organisations include the National Confederation of Industry (CNI), SINAVAL (Sydicate of naval constructors) and ABDIB (the Brazilian association for basic engineering industries).

A major feature of the conference will be a day devoted to the theme of Anglo-Brazilian industrial co-operation. In this connection BMEC is also organising concurrently a 25-man mission to Brazil for top industrialists to take an active part in exploring the opportunities for joint venture and know-how agreements.

The first day of the conference will be devoted to offshore subjects, including module construction, underwater engineering, project management, electrical generation, offshore engineering and consultancy. The theme of the second day will be shipbuilding and marine equipment, with papers on advanced technology systems.

At the same time as the conference will be a graphic presentation of British products and services on a style specially devised by BMEC to provide opportunities for useful exchanges of ideas and information on technical and commercial matters between British companies and their customers abroad.

Twenty-four companies will be taking part showing products including: complete propulsion systems from marine engines to propellers; navigational aids and radio equipment; engineroom auxiliary units; lifesaving equipment and deck gear. Six companies with experience in offshore exploration will be demonstrating products and services ranging from operation of supply bases, design and consultancy capabilities, pipeline clearing equipment and submersible maintenance equipment. In addition both BMEC and OSO will be manning information stands covering the marine equipment and offshore industries as a whole.

Trading with the oil world

'Trading with the oil world' is the title of a seminar arranged by the Offshore Centre on 17 and 18 November at the Connaught Rooms, London.

The seminar is the opening of a planned export programme for companies and includes fact-finding and follow-up visits to individual markets, briefing meetings and business workshops both at home and abroad.

The policy behind the programme is to provide a combined operation to enable individual exporters to take full advantage of the opportunities which are being opened up by world wide offshore developments.

The seminar programme on 17 November includes speakers from the British Overseas Trade Board, the Export Credits Guarantee Department, the Offshore Supplies Office and companies such as British Petroleum. The meeting on 18 November is a special business workshop where delegates will have the chance to discuss with fellow delegates and invited guests the opportunities for initiating business co-operation.

Seminar on exporting paper and board

'Promote more exports' is the theme of a one day seminar sponsored by the Paper and Board Industry Federation on Tuesday, 16 November at the Holiday Inn, Swiss Cottage, London NW3.

The seminar will have a comprehensive programme designed to bring together expertise in the philosophy and mechanics of exporting and also direct experience of exporters of paper and board to world-wide markets. There will be opportunities for questions and both morning and afternoon sessions will conclude with a panel of speakers answering questions from the floor.

Further details can be obtained from: the secretary, Export Promotion Committee, The British Paper and Board Industry Federation Ltd, 3 Plough Place, Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1AL, tel. 01-583 0686.

Seminar on the practicalities of export marketing

Export marketing is the subject of a one-day seminar being organised jointly by the Market Research Society and the British Overseas Trade Board in co-operation with the Institute of Marketing and the Institute of Export. It will be held at the Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington High Street on Friday, 12 November.

The opening speech will be given by Jim Wilks, chief executive of BOTB. This will be followed by six practical sessions covering overseas market selectivity, product targetting, distribution set-up, all aspects of promotion, organising market research and BOTB assistance to exporters.

All the session speakers have had practical experience of export marketing and will present case studies. In the afternoon the speakers' panel will provide a forum for questions and answers.

Details and application forms are available from the Market Research Society, 51 Charles Street, London W1X 7PA, tel. 01-499 1913.

Building in the Middle-East

Housing in the middle eastern states is the subject of a London chamber of commerce trade group discussion which will be held on Friday, 29 October.

In the development programmes of these states housing has remained a major priority. At one time, the emphasis was on specially-designed system-built, precast homes. But population growth and increased consumer demand, as well as the import of labour for large projects, has outstripped the building rate and as a result permanent housing has to be supplemented by portable, speedily-erected units.

The discussion will attempt to introduce small and medium-sized companies in building and building materials to the Middle East markets and to bring these companies into touch with each other.

The programme includes contributions from Mr D. Howard of Austin-Hall and John Templeman of Gynwed. Case histories will be presented by Mr P. E. Hember of Macrae Urbus International and Mr M. Coulon of John Laing International.

More information can be obtained from Mrs P. Steel, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 69 Cannon Street, London EC4N 0AB, tel. 01-248 4444 ext. 25.

Paperwork and computers in international trade

This article by Don Trafford, director of EDP at the Simplification of International Trade Procedures Board, describes a project to develop and recommend standards which can be used as a bridge between data processing systems of different organisations and companies involved in international trade. The object is to facilitate the exchange of information currently passed on traditional documentation.

During a recent address to the Congress of the Institute of Freight Forwarders, the Duke of Kent, vice-chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, commented on the huge potential importance in the use of electronic data processing (EDP) techniques for international commerce. The theme of applying EDP solutions to the problems of procedures and paperwork which confront shippers and forwarders alike was repeated by speakers and discussion panels throughout both days of the congress.

Keen interest is being shown by commerce and government in the UK and abroad in the possibility of using computers to cut a way through the traditional maze of paperwork and procedures in international trade, and a basic requirement of such a reform would be the provision of essential national and international standards to enable information now passed on documents to be exchanged directly between computer systems. The Simplification of International Trade Procedures Board (Sitpro) has set up a project team to develop a UK view on such standards. The purpose of the project is to develop and recommend standards which can be used as a bridge between the EDP systems of different organisations to facilitate the exchange of information both on a national and international basis.

To develop a successful end product the team will need assistance and input from a very wide range of organisations and companies concerned with international trade, particularly those who use (or are planning to use) data processing equipment in any facet of their trade activities. This will include exporters, importers, freight forwarders, loading brokers, shipping agents, carriers, banks and port authorities among others. This help will be particularly necessary in the analysis of data elements and in the development of standard messages.

The team has been set up to carry out the development work but their expertise is no substitute for the views and comments of day to day practitioners with specific needs. It is intended, therefore, to cover the requirements of as many trade function areas as possible by setting up a steering committee and a number of consultative groups to work with the team, in addition to consultations with individual companies and organisations. A separate group will be formed to consider the question of communications protocols and message structure.

The consultative group meetings will be held at centres to suit the groups, rather than always in London. About half a dozen meetings for each group over the 12-month period of the project are expected. Anyone who has an interest in this subject and would be willing to serve on a consultative group and/or the steering committee or who would be willing to be interviewed by members of the team is invited to contact the Sitpro Office at 11-12 Waterloo Place, London SW1Y 4AU (tel. 01-839 3393; telex 919130 a/b Sitpro).

Background to the project

Though international trade has a centuries old history it is only recently that some attempt has been made to standardise the method of presentation of documents and the information (or data) which they contain.

The first reforms came with the progress since the mid-fifties towards standardising document sizes. This gathered pace with the acceptance of the 'A' series of paper sizes – A4 for example. Export documents which do not conform to this standard nowadays tend to be the exception rather than the rule.

The next step towards self-discipline was the introduction of a standard layout design based on the principle that given a commonality of information contained on different export documents, it would be sensible to re-design them so that the common information appeared in the same position on each document. With the gradual improvement of reprographic equipment this has led to rapidly widening use of the 'one-run' system where, by using masking techniques, several different documents can be produced from one master document.

More recently, the Sitpro office, with the assistance of many voluntary committees drawn from various areas of trade, has been revising the layout and data content of export documents based upon the appropriate international standard – the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) layout key. This work will culminate in October with the publication of a handbook for exporters entitled 'Systematic Export Documentation'.

These developments have taken approximately 20 years and with such a gradual transition, mis-investment in office machinery has been rare – although conversely, it has been shown that for certain applications, considerable savings can be gained by using one-run document production systems.

To go further back in history, the opposite was true during the boom period of the development of railways when there was investment in incompatibility in the form of different gauge tracks during a period of concentrated technological advance. Heavy financial losses were incurred when it was finally realised that inter-communication between differing systems was an over-riding necessity.

Now in 1976, an even more explosive technological advance is taking place in the development of computer resources and systems. As before, it is an advance which could easily overtake the planners, particularly in the area of need for interchange between differing systems, except that today, the need is for a planned approach to information or data interchange requirements rather than transport interchange.

The available choice of computer hardware can, at first sight, be quite bewildering for the layman, faced with terms such as minis, micros, and distributed processing. Technological advances are being made which will place the emphasis on compact, powerful, relatively cheap machines which will be regarded in the future as another piece of office machinery. Recently, for example, we have seen the development of a microprocessor which packs the equivalent of 7,000 separate components on to a chip of silicon about a quarter of an inch square.

This type of development will bring computer applications such as the production of export consignment documentation more readily within reach of smaller exporting companies. On the other hand, as with most technological advances, it will also bring attendant problems and one area is the standard representation of data in trade computer systems.

As everyone concerned with trading knows, each activity from order to delivery and payment is part of a chain and within that chain there is a great deal of interchange of data. At the moment, for a great majority of organisations, this exchange of data is carried out through the medium of traditional documentation. The appropriate future process would be the automatic transmission of data between participants' EDP systems. Under these circumstances, the standard representation of the data to be exchanged becomes important if the equivalent of the 1845 Railways Gauge Commission is to be avoided.

Responsibilities of the project team

The concept of the standard representation of data, particularly trade data, is by no means a new one. The National Computing Centre (NCC) in Manchester has included work on this subject in its standardisation activities over several years. In 1974 Sitpro published an interim report prepared by the NCC under the title 'Preliminary Examination of Methods of Message Construction'. This report, also known as Interface, set out suggested principles for the development of standards to facilitate the communication of transaction data between participants in international trade.

The concept, which in some ways is a logical extension into data processing of the concept of aligned documentation using the international ECE layout key, aroused considerable interest internationally. The result was that delegations from 14 countries and several international organisations, including the International Standards Organisation (ISO) and the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC), are now taking part in the activities of a task team set up to deal with the subject under the auspices of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) working party on trade facilitation. The UK has the chairmanship of this particular task team.

More recently, the Sitpro board commissioned an inquiry into the application of electronic data processing (EDP) and data communications to procedures and information flows associated with the international movement of goods. In the inquiry more than 60 organisations were interviewed covering approximately 16 different trade functions. The Sitpro standards project team has been set up as a direct result of comments and views put forward during interviews and the team will work from the Sitpro office.

The study period will be 12 months and the team's aim is to produce a report containing recommendations for data element standards, a list of existing and planned international codes for trade data elements and an analysis of data elements carried on all types of international trade documents. Rules for structuring data elements within messages will also be given with examples of messages in the style or styles recommended and perhaps a list of essential trade transaction messages for inclusion in the recommended standards.

In order not to duplicate previous work on these subjects, the team will need to review the Interface report, in conjunction with techniques proposed by IATA in its cargo automation research project (CARP), by the banks in the Swift project (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications) and those being used by HM Customs and Excise in a revised import entry procedure where certain types of import entry data can be supplied to customs on magnetic tape under a scheduling arrangement. The work of various ECE task teams will also be reviewed.

To ensure that any proposals for international standards reflect national requirements, it will be necessary for the team to consult many companies and organisations involved in international trade as well as appropriate government departments, and a series of interviews will be held early in the project. The object of these would be to assess current practice and future requirements and to identify areas where benefits would be expected.

In addition, a number of 'consultative groups' will be set up in different parts of the country to assist in the determination of requirements and to evaluate proposals produced by the team during the project. As far as possible these groups will be formed initially from representatives of individual organisations and trade associations involved in a particular area of trade – for example, separate groups for freight forwarders, carriers and shippers. It is expected, however, that the format of these groups will be altered during the study to allow proposals to be discussed by a mix of trade participants. It is expected that each group would meet approximately half a dozen times during the project.

The urgent need for the project to develop these standards was first identified by some of the prospective users. Because of time constraints, many companies who could contribute towards these developments were not seen during the EDP and data communications inquiry. The Sitpro board believes that the project is an important one and your assistance in its development is most earnestly sought. If you cannot take an active part but would like to be kept advised of developments, the Sitpro office will gladly arrange to include your name in an information circulation list.

UK businessmen going overseas

British businessmen intending to travel overseas are urged in their own interests to make the earliest possible contact, before going abroad, with the Export Services and Promotions Division of the Department of Trade (at the appropriate regional office for firms outside London, and Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU for firms in London and the South East of England). The department, in co-operation with commercial officers at embassies, high commissions and consulates overseas, is in a position to provide advice when it is required, and to help, where appropriate, in making trade contacts related to the purpose of the visit. Even where a businessman does not require specific assistance it is valuable for him to meet the commercial officers to get up-to-date information about the market. The Department of Trade would therefore welcome receiving notification of any businessmen intending to travel overseas. To enable the overseas commercial officers to be of the greatest assistance to UK visitors the department needs to be able to brief the overseas officers as fully as possible. The range of information required for this purpose includes details of the firm, their products/services and the purpose and background to the visit.

Overseas trade country data

Argentina

Payments for imports. Argentine Central Bank circular RC 650 of 6 September states that payment for imports will be made as follows:

1 Goods included in List 'A' (annexed to circular RC 628) will be negotiated 53 per cent on the official exchange market and 47 per cent on the free exchange market.
2 Goods included in Lists 'B', 'C', 'D' (annexed to circular 628) will be negotiated 100 per cent on the free exchange market.

These terms do not apply to the import of capital goods.
A copy of an unofficial translation of Circular 650 is available.
Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Australia

Temporary Assistance Authority report on paper accepted. The Australian government has announced its acceptance of the recommendations of the Temporary Assistance Authority in its report of 25 August 1976 on paper.

The Authority found that urgent action was not necessary in relation to imports of coated paper and paperboard falling in tariff paragraph 48.07.62.

However in accordance with the Authority's findings tariff quotas will be applied in respect of most types of uncoated paper and paperboard having a fob price of not less than $350 per tonne falling in tariff sub-paragraph 48.01.921.

For the period from 1 September 1976 to 31 May 1977, clearances for home consumption at the current rate of duty would be limited to 45 per cent of total imports on a weight basis cleared for home consumption during the two financial years 1974-75 and 1975-76. Imports cleared for home consumption in excess of that quota would be subject to an additional ad valorem duty of 15 per cent.

Quotas will be allocated according to individual import performance based on clearances for home consumption on a weight basis in the above two financial years.

Goods in bond or in transit at the date of this announcement will be allowed entry for home consumption at existing rates of duty if entered within 21 days of announcement or arrival but quantities so entered will be debited against quota entitlements. No special provision will be made for goods on firm order.

Goods qualifying under the New Zealand preference tariff will not be subject to tariff quotas.

The Industries Assistance Commission is being asked to inquire into and report on long-term assistance requirements of the industry.

The Commission is being asked to submit an interim report by 28 February 1977 on the question of whether the tariff quotas should continue on the products concerned from 31 May 1977 and, if so, at what level.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757, ext. 468/469/401.

Temporary protection of rain umbrellas. The Department of Industry and Commerce has received a request for temporary protection against imports of rain umbrellas falling within item 66.01.100, of the customs tariff.

Interested parties, either in support of or in opposition to the request, may submit their views to the department for consideration. Requests for temporary protection are initially received and considered by the department. They may be referred later to the Temporary Assistance Authority for inquiry and report within 30 days of the date of the reference.

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Export (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension.

Any temporary protection which may be accorded the goods by the government after receipt of the report by the Temporary Assistance Authority will be in the nature of a holding action pending government consideration of the question of long-term protection for the local industry following inquiry and report by the Industries Assistance Commission.

Exporters should note that it has been made clear that, should the need for urgent action emerge from these inquiries, goods ordered but not cleared for home consumption at the date of the announcement will be subject to the terms of the action. Australian importers therefore have been urged to exercise caution in placing orders overseas and in entering into financial commitments on such orders as special consideration may not be given to outstanding commitments should action be taken by the government.

Evidence must be formally submitted at the public hearing, either by a nominated representative of the firm or trade association concerned or through the Australian-British Trade Association, 21 Tothill Street, London SW1 (tel 01-799 7447), who will represent UK interests if authorised. The Association charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed in the preparation of a submission and whether or not the interested party is a member.

UK firms or trade associations intending to submit evidence should advise the Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia, no later than 22 October 1976.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref. CRE 1741/76.

Extension of tariff quota period for high alloy steels. It has been announced that the Australian government has decided to extend for a further month the tariff quotas on stainless steel flat products due to end on 30 September 1976.

Tariff quotas have applied to these goods since 1 November 1975 and involved an additional import duty of 15 per cent (both general and preferential rates) on quantities imported above a quota. The quotas were extended last June until 30 September to give the government time to consider the interim report from the Industries Assistance Commission dealing with assistance to high alloy steels pending completion of its inquiry into the entire iron and steel industry. The Australian government has almost completed its consideration of the Commission's report and expects to be able to announce its decision soon.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 468/469/401.

Barbados

Retail sales tax. The 5 per cent retail sales tax imposed on 1 December 1974 has been abolished with effect from 7 October 1976.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312/456/457.

Belgium

Salt in bread. The *Moniteur Belge* 182 of 17 September 1976 published a decree dated 31 August 1976 concerning bread and other bakers' wares. The decree enters into force on 1 April 1977 except for annexe 2 which came into force on 1 October 1976. This annex deals specifically with the maximum level of salt permitted in bread and supersedes the decree of 3 March 1976 on this subject (see *Trade and Industry*, 9 April 1976). An English translation is being prepared but copies of the decree (in French) are available.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Foodstuffs regulations. The *Moniteur Belge* 187 of 24 September 1976 published a decree dated 25 August 1976 concerning objects and materials permitted to come into contact with foodstuffs. Details are laid down in the annexes to the decree under the following headings: plastic, paper and cardboard, ceramic and glass. The decree enters into force on 1 April 1977. Copies of the decree (in French) are available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Foodstuffs regulations. The *Moniteur Belge* 193 of 2 October 1976 published a decree dated 19 August 1976 which implements EEC directive 75/726/EEC of 17 November 1975 concerning fruit juices and certain similar products. The decree enters into force on 19 November 1977. An English translation is being prepared but copies of the decree (in French) are available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757, ext. 288/466/467.

Canada

Import quota on double-knit fabrics. The Canadian government has imposed a global import quota for the next six months of 4,575,000 lb of double-knit fabrics, effective from 8 October 1976. This is an interim measure following certain recommendations made by the Canadian Textile and Clothing Board.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5397.

Chile

Exchange rates. The Chilean Central Bank has now established the daily rates of exchange for the period 5 October to 4 November. Copies of the Bank's decision, as published in the *Official Gazette* of 5 October are available from CRE 01-215 5289.

Licensing procedure for military supplies. Central Bank Circular 2573 of 24 September 1976 details the list of products, imported as military supplies, whose import licences require the prior approval – before that of the Central Bank itself (when the importation exceeds $ US 1,500 fob) – of the Ministerio de Defensa Nacional.

Certain products within the following tariff headings are listed:

25.03, 28.02, 28.04, 28.30, 28.32, 28.39, 28.44, 28.47, 28.57 29.03, 29.04, 29.07, 29.08, 29.14, 29.15, 29.18, 29.22, 29.26, 29.30, 29.35, 31.02, 36.01, 36.02, 36.03, 36.04, 36.05, 38.35, 39.03, 76.05, 77.02, 79.03, 87.08, 93.01, 93.02, 93.03, 93.04, 93.05, 93.06 93.07.

A copy of the circular, in Spanish, is available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Amendments to the procedure for small imports. Central Bank circular 2501 of May 1976 amends several of the articles establishing the regulation for small (under $ US 1,500 fob) imports.

By virtue of these amendments the period of validity, ie the maximum period for shipment under the special under $US 1,500 fob import system, is 180 days from the date of the corresponding foreign currency transaction at the Chilean Bank.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Colombia

Duty amendments. Decree 1828 of 1 September amends the duties under some headings of the customs tariff. The items affected together with their new rates of duty (previous rates shown in brackets) are as follows:

BN	Product	Duty
04.01.01.00	Milk	20% (15%)
04.01.02.00	Cream	20% (15%)
04.02.01.01	Evaporated milk	20% (25%)
04.02.01.02	Condensed milk	20% (25%)
04.02.01.03	Denatured milk	20% (25%)
04.02.01.99	Other milk	20% (25%)
04.02.02.01	Solid skimmed milk	20% (15%)
04.02.02.02	Solid denatured milk	20% (15%)
04.02.02.99	Other solid milk	20% (15%)
51.01.03.99	Other polyester yarns – non-texturised	40% (25%)

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

India

Origin rules – UK and other preferential areas. The Indian Central government has published the Customs Tariff (Determination of Origin of United Kingdom and other Preferential Areas) Rules, 1976. These supercede a government notification of 17 June 1939 which related to goods of UK or of colonial origin. It should be noted that only certain UK goods enjoy preference and this will be eliminated on 1 July 1977.

The Central government has also published a list of the countries and territories declared to be 'other preferential areas' in accordance with the provisions of subsection (3) of section 4 of the Customs Tariff Act 1975. Although not affecting UK exports this affords a preferential rate for goods included in certain tariff chapters from the areas named.

Copies of the above may be obtained by British exporters on request.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248-5757, ext. 420/475/7062.

Israel

Import duty amendments. The following amendments have been issued to the Israeli customs tariff:

BN no	Description	Rate of duty			Unit
		General	6	3	
32.08-5000	Preparations in the form of liquid or cream constituting fine suspensions of precious metals as specified in the Notes to chapter 71, of the kind used for conductors in the electronic industry and released before 1.1.78	exempt	exempt	exempt	kg
39.07-6400	Cassettes or cartridges for magnetic films	32.5%	32.5%	32.5%	kg
53.05-1090	other (ie in tops but not containing acrylic or modacrylic fibres in any percentage)	10% bnlt 2.50/kg	IL1.90	IL2.50	kg
70.20-6000	other glass yarn	20%	20%	20%	kg
84.31	—	exempt	exempt	exempt	each
90.26-2100	Water supply meters	20%	20%	20%	each

Notes: 6 = original EEC; 3 = new member states of EEC.

BN 05.15: Statistical sub-division 1000 - dried small fish, used in the manufacture of fish meal has been deleted.

BN 92.13: Statistical sub-division 2000 - cassettes or cartridges for magnetic tapes has been deleted.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Standards for school bags and prams. The following Israeli standards have been declared official and compliance with them will be compulsory 60 days from 23 September 1976.

IS 873 - School bags for children
IS 891 - Prams.

The Standards Institution of Israel issues an English translation of the standard and copies may be obtained from the British Standards Institution library, 2 Park Street, London W1 (tel. 01-629 9000, telex 266933).

British exporters requiring technical advice are advised to contact Technical Help to Exporters, British Standards Institution, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 4SQ (tel. 0442 3111, telex 82424).

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Italy

Colouring materials. The *Gazzetta Ufficiale* of 18 September 1976 published a ministerial decree of 3 September 1976, amending ministerial decree of 22 December 1967, on the list of colouring materials authorised for use in the processing of foodstuffs, of paper and wrappings or packings for foodstuffs, and of articles for personal or household use.

The decree sets out 10 colouring substances which are withdrawn from the approved list, with effect from 1 January 1977. As from 1 January 1978, the trading in any products destined for human consumption, which contain one or more of these 10 food colourants is forbidden. Copies of the decree are available in Italian.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 466/467/288.

Ivory Coast

Changes in import regulations: wireless receivers. The former regulations restricting the importation of wireless receivers of a unit value not exceeding 7,000 CFA francs have been lifted following the closure of local assembly plant.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757, ext. 472/462/471/473.

Luxembourg

Foodstuffs regulations. The Luxembourg *Memorial* A47 of 11 August 1976 published a decree dated 21 July 1976 which implements EEC Directive 73/241/EEC of 24 July 1973 concerning cocoa and chocolate products. The decree entered into force on 11 August 1976. Copies of the decree (in French) are available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Detergents. The Luxembourg *Memorial* A47 of 11 August published a decree dated 21 July 1976 which implements EEC Directives 73/404/EEC and 73/405/EEC of 22 November 1973 concerning detergents and surfactants respectively. The decree enters into force on 11 February 1977. Copies of the decree (in French) are available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Nigeria

Import prohibition. A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 16 April 1976 page 177 gave notification of legal notice 16 of 1976 which gave details of the Import Prohibition Order 1976. Information has now been received from the British High Commission in Lagos of the following amendments to that Order with effect from 1 October 1976.

The following goods released from absolute prohibition:
(Schedule 1 Part III) concentrated fruit juices unfermented and not containing alcohol imported by approved manufacturers, other fine bakers' wares, dried fruits, plastic babies' feeding bottles, textiles, fabrics imported by approved manufacturers, vitaminised malt extract drinks, textile trimmings and linings, hat bodies including hat bodies of wool, fur and fur felt, and tableware and other articles of a kind commonly used for domestic or toilet purposes of porcelain, china or other kinds, of pottery or of glass.
Following removed from list of goods requiring import licence (Schedule 3 Part III):
Wooden flush doors, furniture and furnishings, carpets, linoleum and similar floor or wall coverings, felt and felt articles, blankets, travelling rugs and coverlets, and canned beer and canned stout.
Following goods released from absolute prohibition and placed on list of those requiring import licence: bed linen, table linen, toilet linen, kitchen linen, curtains and other furnishing articles including pillow cases.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757, ext. 473/472/471/462.

Exchange control. Further to recent notices on exchange control, the Central Bank of Nigeria has abolished, with effect from 4 October 1976, the requirement to produce a port cargo clearance certificate as a condition for releasing payment for imports.

When submitting applications for payments by letter of credit importers should attach a proforma invoice, copy of the letter of credit and attested cable from the exporter stating that shipping documents have been obtained (the attested invoice, non-negotiable bill of lading and certificate of insurance should be sent to the Central Bank within 21 days of receipt of the cable).

All applications for payment against a bill for collection must be supported by the bill history, attested invoice, certificate of insurance and a copy of the non-negotiable bill of lading.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 3064/3338.

New Zealand

Custom tariff review of arms and ammunition, miscellaneous manufactures, works of art etc. Sections 19, 20 and 21 of the New Zealand tariff will soon be covered under the customs tariff review (see *Trade and Industry*, 27 June 1975, page 779).

The closing date for submissions in respect of tariff items in these sections is 31 October 1976.

The following chapters are covered by sections 19, 20 and 21:

Section 19
Arms and ammunition; Parts thereof
93 arms and ammunition; parts thereof
Section 20
Miscellaneous manufactured articles
94 furniture and parts thereof; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishing.
95 articles and manufactures of caning or moulding material.
96 brooms, brushes, feather dusters, powder-puffs and sieves.
97 toys, games and sports requisites; parts thereof.
98 miscellaneous manufactured articles.
Section 21
Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques
99 works of art, collectors pieces and antiques.

The customs department has indicated that British exporters who wish to make submissions should do so by letter (five copies) through the Commercial Department, British High Commission, PO Box 369, Wellington, New Zealand.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5321. Ref CRE 45466.

Pakistan

National Formulary. The government of Pakistan has, under the provisions of section 8 of the Drugs Act 1976, published a National Formulary comprising all drugs allowed to be imported, manufactured or sold in Pakistan, subject to periodic review and modification.

A loan copy of the Pakistan National Formulary is available to British exporters on request.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248-5757, ext. 420/475/7062.

Peru

Additions and amendments to the permitted imports list. Supreme resolution 112-76-CO/CE of 19 August 1976 has included the following products in the permitted imports list:

37.07.89.00; 92.12.02.11; 92.12.04.00

Additionally, supreme resolution 110-76-CO/CE amends the restriction covering '04.02.02.00 – Importation exclusive to the public sector' falling within the partial and/or conditional list of permitted imports. Under this supreme resolution skimmed powdered milk and milk powder serum coloured for animal use and partially skimmed demineralised milk serum, for industrial use, can be imported by the private sector.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757, ext. 474/476.

Portugal

Import restrictions. On 8 October the Minister for Economic Co-ordination announced the publication of three orders to restrict imports:

1 The import surcharge of 20 per cent introduction in May 1975 is to be increased to 30 per cent. The rate on some goods already attracting a 30 per cent surcharge will be increased to 60 per cent. The latter increase will apply to a small number of luxury goods such as shell-fish, wines, tobacco, perfumes, confectionery and jewellery. The period during which the surcharges will apply has been extended to 31 March.
2 Most goods liable to surcharges will also be subject to an import deposit of 50 per cent of their value, returnable after 180 days. No interest will be payable and banks will not be permitted to extend credit to finance the deposit. The procedure for making import deposits is linked with the issue of import licences and the scheme entered into force on 14 October
3 The Ministries of Finance, Foreign Trade and Economic Co-ordination are empowered to impose temporary quantitative restrictions on non-essential imports if the balance of payments situation justifies them.

No further details are available at present. Information of the goods affected is expected shortly. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757, ext. 460.

Sierra Leone

Immigration. Public notice 868 published in the Sierra Leone *Gazette* of 22 September 1976 announced that the government had given the principal immigration officer strict instructions not to allow anyone to land in the country, irrespective of the duration of stay, if a valid entry permit has not previously been obtained. For further details businessmen should consult page 11 of the current 'Hints to businessmen' booklet.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 3331/3064.

South Africa

Customs tariff changes. The following amendments were published in the South African *Government Gazette* of 1 October 1976.

R 1757	No 29.15	The rate of duty on phthalic acids is reduced from 20 per cent (general) and 15 per cent (MFN) to free.
R 1758		Industrial Rebates Item 306.04 and 307.01 No 29.14, 38.19 and 29.15. 1 Provision is made for a rebate of the full duty on isononanoic acid for the manufacture of paint driers. 2 The provision for a rebate of duty on mixtures of isononanoic, isodecanoic and iso-octanoic acids, for the manufacture of paint driers, is amended so that mixtures of two of the acids can also be entered under the rebate of duty. 3 As isophthalic acid is now free of duty the provision for a rebate of duty thereon for the manufacture of synthetic resins and artificial plastics is withdrawn.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

Tariff application. Customs Tariff Application List 33/76, published in the South African *Government Gazette* 15 October 1976 contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on the following:

1 textile fabrics classifiable under tariff subheading 39.02.50.55,
2 hose clamps classifiable under tariff subheading 73.40.99,
3 wooden doors classifiable under tariff subheading 44.23.90, and
4 radiographic plates and film classifiable under tariff subheading 37.01.10.

British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE 01-215 5274.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Spain

Customs tariff modifications. The Spanish State Gazette, 31 August 1976 published royal decree 2003/76 and 2004/1976 establishing duty free quotas and modifying the Spanish customs tariff as follows:

Tariff heading	Description	Import duty	Quota in tonnes
73.09	Universal plates of iron or steel:		
	B. Of a width exceeding 250mm, but not exceeding 600mm	13%	30,000
73.11	A. Angles, shapes, and sections of iron or of steel:		
	1. Not further worked than hot-formed:		
	d. Ribbed universal plates and angles of ship-building quality subject to a certificate of classification	13%	60,000
	B. Sheet piling	13%	7,500
73.12	Hoop and strip, of iron or steel, hot-rolled or cold-rolled:		
	A. 'Electrical', with a per-kilogramme watt-loss of:		
	1. Not more than 0.75	17%	750
73.13	Sheets and plates, of iron or steel, hot-rolled or cold-rolled:		
	A. 'Electrical plates and sheets', with a per-kilogramme watt-loss of:		
	1. Not more than 0.75	17%	750
	B. Plates and sheets of low-temperature-resistant steel, subject to a certificate of classification	15%	1,500
73.15	Alloy steel and high carbon steel in the forms mentioned in headings nos 73.06 to 73.14:		
	A. Hoop and strip, plates and sheets, angles, shapes and sections, of low-temperature-resistant steel, subject to a certificate of classification	15%	3,000
	B. 'Electrical hoop and strip and plates and sheets', with a per-kilogramme watt-loss of:		
	3. Not more than 0.75	17%	30,000
	E. Stainless and heat-resisting alloy steel:		
	4. Coils for re-rolling, hot-rolled, whether or not pickled, of a thickness of:		
	a. 3mm or more	15%	75,000
	b. Less than 3mm	15%	750
	7. Hoop and strip:		
	a. Hot-rolled:		
	I. As defined in Additional Note No 8(f):		
	a. Of a thickness of 9mm or more	15%	750
	8. Plates and sheets:		
	a. Hot-rolled:		
	I. As defined in Additional Note No 8(f):		
	a. Of a thickness of 9mm or more	15%	22,500

The above modifications are valid from 31 August 1976.
Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757, ext. 462/471/472.

Customs tariff modifications. The Spanish State Gazette, 28 July 1976 published royal decree 1774/1976 modifying the Spanish customs tariff to read as follows:

Tariff no	Description	Import duty
04.04	Cheese and curd:	
	A Emmenthal, Gruyere, Sbrinz, Bergkase and Appenzell:	
	1 With a minimum fat content of 45 per cent by weight, calculated on the dry product, ripened for at least three months and fulfilling the conditions stipulated in note 1 below:	
	a In standard loaves of a cif value of:	
	1 15,522 pesetas or more, but less than 17,150 pesetas per 100kg net	4,361 ptas/100kg net
	2 17,150 pesetas or more per 100kg net	3,602 ptas/100kg net
	b In the form of pieces packed in vacuum or in inert gas, with rind on at least one side, of a weight exceeding 1kg and a cif value of:	
	1 16,688 pesetas or more but less than 18,362 pesetas per 100kg net	4,456 ptas/100kg net
	2 18,362 pesetas or more per 100kg net	3,489 ptas/100kg net
	c In the form of pieces packed in vacuum on in inert gas, with rind on at least one side, of a weight of 1kg or less but more than 75g per pack and a cif value of:	
	1 17,420 pesetas or more but less than 19,125 pesetas per 100kg net	4,338 ptas/100kg net
	2 19,125 pesetas or more per 100kg net	3,423 ptas/100kg net
	2 Other	45%
	B Glaris herb cheese (known as Schabziger), whether or not in powder form, made with a basis of skim milk and mixed with finely ground herbs, fulfilling the conditions stipulated in note 2 below.	45%
	C Blue-veined cheese:	
	1 Roquefort, fulfilling the conditions stipulated in note 2 below	45%
	2 Gorgonzola, Bleu de Causses, Blue d'Auvergne, Bleu de	

Tariff no	Description	Import duty
	Bresse, Fourme d'Ambert, Saingorlon, Edelpilzkase, Bleufort, Bleu de Gex, Bleu du Jura, Bleu de Septmoncel, Danablu, Mycella, and Bleu Stilton, fulfilling the conditions stipulated in note 1 below and of a cif value of 13,338 pesetas or more per 100kg net	45%
	3 Other	45%
	D Processed cheese:	
	1 Fulfilling the conditions in note 1 below in the manufacture of which only Emmenthal, Gruyere and Appenzell have been used and which may contain, as an addition, Glaris herb cheese (known as Schabzinger), put in portions or slices, with a fat content, calculated on the dry product:	
	a Not exceeding 48 per cent by weight in respect of the aggregate of portions or slices and of a cif value of 14,385 pesetas or more per 100kg net	4,316 ptas/ 100kg net
	b Not exceeding 48 per cent by weight in respect of five-sixths of the aggregate of portions or slices and not exceeding 56 per cent in respect of the remaining one-sixth and of a cif value of 14,385 pesetas or more per 100kg net	4,316 ptas/ 100kg net
	c Exceeding 48 per cent but not exceeding 56 per cent by weight in respect of the aggregate of portions or slices and of a cif value of 14,637 pesetas or more per 100kg net	4,391 ptas/ 100kg net
	2 Other processed cheese in portions or slices, fulfilling the conditions stipulated in note 1 below, with dry-product content of 40 per cent or more by weight and a fat content, calculated on the dry product:	
	a Not exceeding 48 per cent by weight, and of a cif value of 12,469 pesetas or more per 100kg net	45%
	b Exceeding 48 per cent but not exceeding 63 per cent by weight, and of a cif value of 12,713 pesetas or more per 100kg net	45%
	c Exceeding 63 per cent but not exceeding 73 per cent by weight, and of a cif value of 12,952 pesetas or more per 100kg net	45%
	3 Other	45%
	E Curd	45%
	F Goat's cheese fulfilling the conditions stipulated in note 2 below	45%
	G Other:	
	1 With a fat content of 40 per cent or less by weight and a water content (calculated on the non-fats):	
	a Not exceeding 47 per cent by weight:	
	1 Parmigiano, Reggiano, Grana Padano, Pecerino and Fioresado, whether or not granted or powdered, fulfilling the conditions stipulated in note 1 below and of a cif value of 13,338 pesetas or more per 100kg net	s45%
	2 Other	45%
	b Exceeding 47 per cent but not exceeding 72 per cent by weight:	
	1 Cheddar and Chester, fulfilling the conditions stipulated in note 1 below, and of a cif value of 12,304 pesetas or more per 100kg net in the case of Cheddar for blending and 13,581 pesetas or more per 100kg net for the others	45%
	2 Provolone, Asiago, Caciocavallo and Ragusano, fulfilling the conditions stipulated in note 1 below, and of a cif value of 13.278 pesetas or more per 100kg net	45%
	3 Butterkase, Cantal, Edam, Fontal, Fontina, Gouda, Italico, Kernhem, Mimoleta, Saint-Nectaire, Saint-Paulin, Tilsit, Havarti, Danbo, Samsoe, Fynbo and Maribo, fulfilling the conditions situpulated in note 1 below, and of a cif value of 12,873 pesetas or more per 100kg net in the case of the EEC and 13,278 pesetas or more per 100kg net for other countries	5,975 ptas/ 100kg net (EEC rate 5,793 ptas/ 100kg net)
	4 Camembert, Brie, Taleggio, Maroilles, Coulommiers, Carré de l'Est, Reblochon, Pont l'Eveque, Neufchatel, Limburger, Romadour, Herve, Harzerkase, Brussel's Cheese, Stracchino, Crescenza, Robiola, Livarot, Munster and Saint-Marcellini, fulfilling the conditions stipulated in note 2 below	45%
	5 Other cheese with a water content (calculated on the non-fats) exceeding 62 per cent, fulfilling the conditions stipulated in note 1 below, and of a cif value of 14,619 pesetas or more per 100kg net	45%
	6 Other	45%
	c Exceeding 72 per cent by weight and put up for retail sale in packagings containing net:	
	1 500g or less, fulfilling the conditions stipulated in note 1 below, and of a cif value of 14,619 pesetas or more per 100kg net	45%
	2 More than 500g	45%
	2 Other	45%

Notes 1 The classification of goods under this subheading shall be subject to the production of a certificate issued by the competent body in the country of origin. The certificate must be acknowledged by the Spanish authorities and comply with the form approved by those authorities. In the absence of such certificate, the goods shall be classified under subheadings 04.04A2, 04. 04C3, 04.04D3, 04.04G1(a) 2, 04.04 G1(b) 6, 04.04G1(c) 2 and 04.04 G2, as the case may be.

2 The classification of goods under this subheading shall be subject to the production of a certificate issued by the competent body in the country of origin. The certificate must be acknowledged by the Spanish authorities and comply with the form approved by those authorities. In the absence of such certificate, the goods shall be classified under subheadings 04.04C3, 04.04G1(b) 6 and 04.04G2, as the case may be.

Additional Note No. 4 of Chapter 4 of the current Customs Tariff should read as follows:

4 For the purposes of subheadings 04.04D1 and 04.04D2, processed cheese shall be considered as 'put up in portions or slices' when imported:
in circular or semi-circular boxes containing three or more but not more than 12 individual portions of an aggregate net weight not exceeding 250g or containing a single portion of a net weight not exceeding 56g;
in circular or polygonal boxes (other than square or rectangular) containing at least 12 individual portions of an aggregate net weight of 450 to 1,000g;
in the form of slices wrapped separately in aluminium foil, the net weight of each slice not to exceed 30g.

The above modifications are valid from 28 July 1976.
Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757, ext. 462/471/472.

Tonga

Devaluation of the Pa'anga. At midnight 19 September 1976 the Tongan government devalued the Pa'anga by 6 per cent against the Australian dollar.

Tunisia

Import of secondhand cars and tractors. The prohibition of the import of secondhand vehicles and the prohibition of secondhand tractors has been supplemented by communiques published in the Tunisian press.

Special permission can now be given for importing these vehicles providing they meet the conditions set out in the communiques. An unofficial translation is available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 461.

United States

Re-opened escape-clause investigation into non-rubber footwear. The International Trade Commission have re-opened the escape clause investigation into non-rubber footwear. Public hearings will be held in Washington on 7 December 1976. Requests for appearance must be received by the Secretary of the ITC (address to come) by 2 December 1976.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

Reopened escape clause investigation into canned mushrooms. The International Trade Commission have reopened the escape clause investigation into canned mushrooms. Public hearings will be held in Washington on 11 November 1976.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

Electrical standards for boats. The *Federal Register*, 4 October 1976, published details of rules proposed by the Coastguard to establish standards for electrical systems in recreational boats.

Written comments should be sent by 1 December 1976 to, Marine Safety Council, US Coastguard, Room 8117, 400 7th Street, SW, Washington DC 20590.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757, ext. 456/457.

Food additive: cyclamate as sweetening agent. The *Federal Register* dated 4 October 1976 published a notice denying the use of cyclamic acid, calcium cyclamate and sodium cyclamate as sweetening agents in food.

Written objections (6 copies) by 3 November 1976 to Food and Drug Administration Room 4–65, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville M.D. 20852.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Childrens' sleepwear – labelling amendments. The *Federal Register* dated 5 October 1976 published details of rules proposed by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to amend the care labelling instructions which if certain conditions are met could be printed on the reverse side of the label.

Written comments (5 copies) by 5 November 1976 to Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington D.C. 20207.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Upper Volta

Tariff amendments. Ordnance 76/004 of 16 April 1976 by the government of Upper Volta (circulated in a bulletin of the Chambre de Commerce du Niger, 15 July 1976), reduced the rate of the fiscal tax imposed on the following products on imports into Upper Volta:

Tariff no	Description
ex 25.27	Natural steatite crushed or powdered except talc in inner wrappings of 1kg or less net - rate reduced from 64% to 50%
ex 27.12	Refined petroleum jelly - rate reduced from 46% to 35%
ex 33.04	Odoriferous substances for the perfume industry - rate reduced from 78% to 50%
ex 39.03	Regenerated cellulose; cellulose nitrate, cellulose acetate and other cellulose esters, cellulose ethers and other chemical derivatives of cellulose, plasticised or not (for example collodions, celluloid) - rate reduced from 67% to 50%
48.19	Paper and paperboard labels, whether or not printed or gummed - rate reduced from 78% to 50%
70.10	Carboys, bottles, jars, tubular containers and similar containers of ordinary glass, of a kind commonly used for the conveyance and packing of goods; stoppers and other closures of ordinary glass - rate reduced from 78% to 50%
73.23	Casks, cans, drums, boxes and other similar containers, of sheet or plate iron or steel, of a description commonly used for the conveyance or packing of goods - rate reduced from 67% to 50%
76.10	Casks, cans, drums, boxes and other similar containers (including rigid and collapsible tubular containers), of aluminium, of a description commonly used for the conveyance or packing of goods - rate reduced from 58% to 35%
83.13	Stoppers, crown corks, bottle caps, capsules, bung covers, seals and plombs, case corner protectors and other packing accessories, of base metal - rate reduced from 67% to 50%

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 472/462/471/473.

Uruguay

Imports of lorry kits. Decree 505 of 5 August permits the importation of kits for lorries of up to 15 tonnes to assist in completing 1976 assembly programmes. The kits may be imported free of surcharges, port dues and consular fees.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

UK businessmen going overseas

British businessmen intending to travel overseas are urged in their own interests to make the earliest possible contact, before going abroad, with the Export Services and Promotions Division of the Department of Trade (at the appropriate Regional Office for firms outside London, and Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU for firms in London and the South East of England). The department, in co-operation with commercial officers at Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates overseas, is in a position to provide advice when it is required, and to help, where appropriate, in making trade contacts related to the purpose of the visit. Even where a businessman does not require specific assistance it is valuable for him to meet the commercial officers to get up-to-date information about the market. The Department of Trade would therefore welcome receiving notification of any businessmen intending to travel overseas. To enable the overseas commercial officers to be of the greatest assistance to UK visitors the department needs to be able to brief the overseas officers as fully as possible. The range of information required for this purpose includes details of the firm, their products/services and the purpose and background to the visit.

NB

The Dutch bought more than £3m per day worth of British goods in 1975
(only the U.S.A. and W. Germany bought more)

In 1976 trade with the Netherlands is already up by 17%

The Netherlands-British Chamber of Commerce is urgently searching for British companies wishing to export to the Netherlands

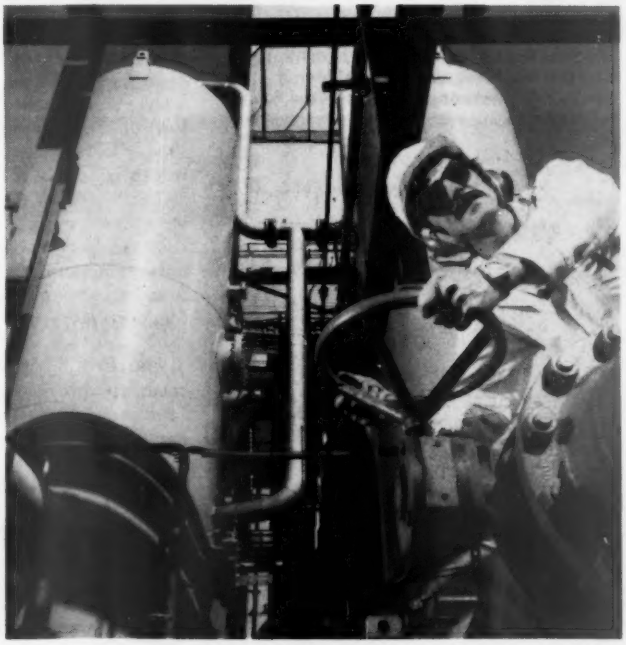
Please send name/address of your company and list of products/ services to be exported, brochures and price lists to:

The Netherlands-British Chamber of Commerce
307/308 High Holborn, London WC1V 7LS
London: 01-405 1358 Manchester: 061-834 5674

ENCIRCLE TI 230 ON PAGE 263 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Oxygen plant in the pipeline

Experience in cryogenics – the science of very low temperatures – has enabled Air Products Ltd of New Malden to undertake a £10 million export order for the design, manufacture, supply and erection of two 850-tonne-per-day oxygen plants for the Pohang Iron and Steel Co in the Republic of Korea. When the plant, similar to the one in this picture, is completed in 1978 it will supply the steelworks with gaseous oxygen, gaseous nitrogen, liquid nitrogen and liquid argon for the oxy-enrichment, purging and annealing processes associated with iron and steel manufacture.



Overseas trade exhibitions

Success for UK exhibitors at Sydney engineering show

From P. A. Turnbull, British consulate-general, Sydney

The UK pavilion arranged by the British Overseas Trade Board at Australia's ninth international engineering exhibition held from 13 to 18 September in Sydney took first prize for design excellence. UK manufacturers occupied 36 stands in the pavilion where in many cases the equipment was being shown for the first time in Australia.

The Australian international engineering exhibition is held alternately in Sydney and Melbourne. AIEE '76 occupied 18,400m² of net display area. The British pavilion covered 1,336m² net and was the largest national display. Other nations taking part were Austria, India, Israel, Italy, New Zealand, Romania, USSR, West Germany and Taiwan represented by the Far East Trade Service. In addition more than 100 Australian companies took space.

British machine tools attracted much interest and manufacturers of new models were rewarded with orders placed during the exhibition. Notable successes were recorded by Adcock Shipley whose agents wrote orders for each of the machines displayed on their stand. Kingsland Engineering universal bar working machines on public display for the first time in Australia were also sold from the stand as were Boxford Lathes. The Scruttons group, newly appointed agents for Boxford claimed that up to 14 orders were secured for these lathes which will be used in various branches of technical colleges for instructional purposes. Other successes were recorded by the UK exhibitors but those mentioned are an indication of the acceptance of the British products in the Australian market at a time when economic recovery is slow. The British consulate in Sydney, co-ordinators of the display, consider that the British pavilion was by far the most successful of the displays ever to take part in the Australian exhibition since joint venture or pavilion terms have been offered to British companies. All exhibitors in the UK pavilion agreed that it was a success and joined with Sir Donald Tebbitt, British high commissioner in the belief that this event has done much to strengthen the position of the British engineering suppliers to the Australian market.

Sir Donald Tebbit (left) British high commissioner to Australia, discusses the Fenner Moon Monster display with Paul Evans (centre), national field sales manager, and Morris Simmonds, marketing executive of the Fenner subsidiary in Australia.

A good furniture show at Lyons

From F. C. D. Sargeant, consul-general, British consulate-general, Lyons

Meuropam, the international furniture salon, has been held in Lyons annually since 1960. A section devoted to furnishings and furniture trade equipment was added in 1962 under the name of Pro-Meuropam, and this year the exhibition expanded further, with a large section called Meurocuisine for kitchen furniture. The salon held this year from 2 to 5 October covered an overall area of 70,000m² in part of the Lyon Fair premises.

There were 900 exhibitors, of whom 260 were from outside France and 24 foreign countries were represented. There were 23,600 trade visitors from 43 countries. These figures represent a significant increase on the figures for previous years: the sign of a healthy exhibition.

The British participation in Meuropam occupied three complete galleries, with 30 furniture manufacturers taking part in the joint venture sponsored by the British Furniture Manufacturers' Federated Associations under the auspices of the Department of Trade. A few other British manufacturers exhibited independently, including Wrighton and Sons Ltd in the new kitchen furniture section.

British manufacturers are particularly known in France for their reproduction furniture. The elegant design and quality workmanship is widely admired. Reproduction dining room suites and bookcases were in evidence on most of the British stands, together with comfortable armchairs upholstered in leather and fabrics. Some outstanding items were made of yew, a wood used little in France. One British exhibitor showed some authentic reproductions of the furniture in 10 Downing Street.

Most of the British firms present reported good results: 'Better than last year', said several of them. The prevailing rate of exchange was, no doubt, helpful.

Ernest G. Hudson, claimed to have done twice as much business as last year: orders had been taken from new customers, and old clients had bought more. Particularly successful had been small items incorporating paintings on glass by Glasshouse Paintings Ltd.

There were several newcomers in this year's joint venture. The majority of these reported useful contacts. Others found the show useful as a means of getting to know the French market. One or two admitted, however, that they should, perhaps, have been more thorough when doing their homework before the exhibition.

On the whole, however, it is fair to say that this was a good show for the British exhibitors, all of whom declared their intention to continue marketing in France, and to return to next year's Meuropam.

British meet demands of quality and style at Munich fashion fair

From D. Cox, vice-consul (commercial), British consulate-general, Munich

Forty-two British companies took part in the Munich Fashion Week held for the thirty-fourth time between 3 and 7 October. Twenty-nine of the British firms participating at this twice-yearly event were involved in a joint venture organised by the Clothing Export Council and the British Overseas Trade Board. There were 1,690 exhibitors from 30 countries and 50,962 visitors came to the fair during its five days.

Of the firms who took part in the joint venture, the larger and more experienced participants reported a high level of inquiries, with firm orders in excess of those from previous participation, plus a good deal of potential business from other inquiries received. Kilt manufacturers in particular did very good business and, possibly helped by the 'Folklore' theme of this fair, both F. J. Bacon and Clan Laird improved handsomely on good levels of orders taken in the spring. The demand for leather garments is still high

with a current tendency towards suede. It is significant that Windsor Leatherwear reported excellent results with orders exceeding £60,000 in the first four days, including one of £10,000 from Belgium, although exhibiting men's leatherwear in what is a predominately female fashion event. It was interesting to hear one exhibitor, who had taken good orders from Germany and Austria, comment that cheaper materials from the Far East were tending to depress the market for leatherwear in Germany.

At first sight interest in the joint venture seemed to be rather 'topheavy' throughout the five days with large numbers of visitors occupying comparatively few stands. Though this tended to be reflected in orders taken, most firms felt they had done enough business to have made their attendance worthwhile. A particularly pleasing aspect of the business done was the continuing increase in interest shown by German buyers in British goods, alongside the traditionally strong Austrian and Swiss markets. This in itself is a fair indication that British manufacturers are quite capable of meeting the demands of quality and style which continue to be more important than price in this market. One exhibitor claimed that a German buyer travelled from Bremen on the first day of the fair solely to place one very large order with his firm.

It is also encouraging that those firms who were disappointed with their results felt, nonetheless, that they had gained much by participating, either by virtue of contacts they had made or general experience acquired. In particular, the newcomers felt they had learnt a lot about presentation and most considered that attendance at future fairs would be worth their while.

Hong Kong takes to British furniture

From P. C. Barnes, information officer, British trade commission in Hong Kong

Following their successful participation in the first Joint European Furniture Exhibition in 1975 British furniture manufacturers displayed their products at the second fair held in the Convention Centre in Hong Kong from 3 to 7 October.

There were 19 exhibitors of which 11 were British companies who occupied more than 400m² and whose exhibits ranged from the early nineteenth century to sophisticated and luxurious contemporary lounge suites. Several British exhibitors had designs specially commissioned for the exhibition. They participated under the joint auspices of the British Furniture Manufacturers' Export Club Ltd and the BOTB.

All the British firms who were seeking agents for their products were able to make satisfactory arrangements and British participants found ready buyers for all the furniture on display. Confirmed orders taken at the exhibition totalled £80,000.

Good business prospects follow Fair for the Child

From R. Tempest, second secretary (commercial) British embassy, Bonn

The International Fair for the Child was held in Cologne from 8 October to 11 October, and offered a wide choice of products, both traditional and those incorporating many new technical and fashion ideas, to the 8,900 trade visitors from 41 countries, who visited the fair.

Over 500 firms, two hundred from outside West Germany exhibited their products to the international market, and prominent among them were 15 British firms taking part in a joint venture sponsored by the BOTB and the Westminster chamber of commerce.

The range of products offered by British firms was wide, and included prams, push chairs, nursery equipment, safety guards and harnesses, pram accessories, toys of various types and also supplies for the manufacturing trade such as pram wheels, printed pram lining fabrics etc. In another section of the fair, three British children's and babies' outerwear manufacturers exhibited.

For British exhibitors, this proved to be probably the most successful Fair for the Child for some time. Over 600 inquiries were received from countries as far apart as Australia and Norway. Some good firm orders of considerable value could be booked, but post-fair business with the contacts made is likely to far exceed orders taken at the fair. Although the flow of trade visitors seemed to be fairly low once they had spread throughout the large hall 14 in which the fair was held, the quality of visitor, and the discussions held with them was high.

Trade visitors interested themselves in the whole range of products offered by British exhibitors, not only because of the very competitive prices they were able to quote, but also because of the many new technical and design features which British firms were exhibiting this year.

Although most orders booked were from European customers, orders were also placed by buyers from North America, South Africa, Australia and the Middle East.

Over 600 inquiries were received by UK firms at Fair for the Child.

Eleven British firms backed by BOTB exhibited in Hong Kong

Overseas trade export successes

Leyland chalks up £7 million in new export orders

Leyland International and Leyland Special Products have won export orders in the Netherlands and Yugoslavia worth a total of £7.5 million.

Leyland International's contract, worth £6.5 million, is for 512 Land-Rover ambulances including spares for the Royal Netherlands Army. It is an extension of the one signed in July 1975 for 2,625 Land-Rovers. The ambulances will be supplied with spares over the next five years. Together with last year's contract, total sales of Land-Rovers to the Royal Netherlands Army now amount to £220 million.

Aveling Marshall of Gainsborough, part of Leyland Special Products, beat European and United States competition to win an export order for crawler tractors worth nearly £1 million. The contract is for the supply of special pipe-laying crawler tractors for Yugoslavia and was placed by the General Export Company of Belgrade on behalf of the Naftagas organisation. Fifteen Aveling Marshall 'Challenger' 140 brake horsepower crawler tractors. specially equipped with cranes and side booms will be supplied and they will be used to lay a giant gas pipe line across Yugoslavia.

Magnets down under

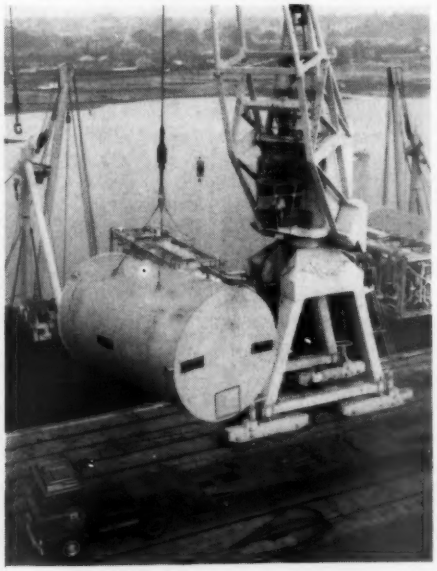
Six permanent magnets, each weighing 90kg and measuring 610mm in diameter by 50mm thick, the biggest ever made by James Neill (Napier Street), are in transit from the company's Sheffield factory for New South Wales where they will be assembled individually into large electromagnetic lifters to function as reserve magnets in the event of a power failure. Under ideal conditions each magnet is capable of supporting a load of 28 tonnes.

The project, for Oliver Electrical (Pty). was completed in only 12 weeks and the order was won against Japanese competition.

Storage tanks go to Nigeria, Bahrain and Abu Dhabi

Word-of-mouth reputation for quick production and delivery has brought orders from Nigeria, Bahrain and Abu Dhabi for tanks and storage vessels valued at £265,000 to Cookson and Zinn Ltd of Hadleigh. The biggest order, from Nigeria, is for 22 tanks, 16 ft diameter by 48 ft long, for installation at two locations in Northern Nigeria for oil fuel storage. The order from Bahrain, worth £40,000, is for one 1 million litre and two 100,000 litre capacity tanks to contain water. The Abu Dhabi order, also worth £40,000, is for two tanks each weighing 13 tons and for one skid-mounted 9 ft diameter by 25 ft long tank for the Abu Dhabi Petroleum company.

Cookson and Zinn tank on route to Abu Dhabi.



Mauritius Bank chooses ICL

The first ICL 2903 computer system in Mauritius has been installed by International Computers Ltd in the main offices of the Mercantile Bank in Port Louis. The 2903 system will form the heart of the Mercantile Bank's network of operations covering seven branches throughout the island and it will introduce the most advanced techniques to the banking industry to Mauritius.

UK firms win major Paraguay airports contracts

Three British firms and a Paraguayan company have been appointed by Paraguay's Minister of Defence, General Marcial Samaniego, to undertake a feasibility study of airport and aeronautical communications development at eight of the most important population centres in Paraguay.

The British firms are Brian Colquhoun and Partners, international consulting engineers, Cable and Wireless Ltd, the international telecommunications operator, and Coopers and Lybrand Ltd, an international firm of management and economic consultants.

Lasers to measure Czech tubes

Davy Instruments Ltd, of Sheffield, has been awarded a contract valued at over £250,000 for the supply of on-line tube-size measuring equipment by the Czechoslovakian organisation, Skodaexport.

The equipment, three non-contact laser operated outside tube diameter gauges and six ultrasonic tube wall thickness gauges, will be installed in the Svermove Zeleziarne tube works in Central Slovakia.

British firms win Middle East crane contracts

Middle East contracts worth more than £4.5 million have been won by two British crane firms.

The first contract was placed with Crane Aid Services Ltd, a member of the Morris Group, and is a £3 million order for the modernisation and maintenance of the entire port of Khorramshahr the largest and main port in Iran. It is the first contract to be won by the company's new joint services organisation in Iran, Akam Industrial Services, which was established last month in conjunction with Akam Steel Industries Co Ltd.

The contract, won against strong West German and United States competition, will run for three years and is for the clearance, renovation, conversion and servicing of the largely moribund dockside handling equipment. Akam Industrial Services will be responsible for 1,000 pieces of mechanical handling equipment, including a wide range of cranes, trucks, trailers, trolleys and diesel powered units.

The second contract has been awarded to Sparrows Contract Services Ltd of Bristol a member of the Sparrow Group the Bath-based international crane hire and lifting specialists. It is worth initially £1.6 million and is for the hire of lifting equipment for use in Saudi Arabia. The contract was awarded by the National Contracting Company of Al Khobar, one of the Alireza Group of Companies which operates in all the Gulf states. Sparrows are shipping out mobile and crawler cranes and fork lift trucks, and are also supplying crane operators and all the necessary operational and maintenance support.

The lifting equipment is urgently required as part of a temporary dock facility to relieve port congestion in Damman, being set up by the National Contracting Company in a joint venture with PHS Van Ommeren of Rotterdam, to handle over 2 million tons of bagged cement per year.

Hong Kong tunnel contract

G. C. Davis and Co (GAS) Ltd, of Barnet, has received a £50,000 contract from the Hong Kong China Gas Company for the design, engineering, supply and commissioning of a complete gas detection monitoring system for the new, second Lion Rock road tunnel in Hong Kong.

A 12 in high-pressure town gas main runs beneath the roadway and presents a potential hazard. The system will provide continuous electrocatalytic monitoring for gas leakages at pre-explosive levels. In addition, a series of 48 sampling units placed throughout the length of the tunnel will detect leakages of town gas at levels as low as 20 ppm.

Concentrated effort wins Nigerian catering contract

A concerted export effort by Commercial Catering Equipment over a period of 18 months has resulted in the award of a £2.2 million contract for the design, construction and equipping of three restaurants for the Nigerian Federal Housing Authority. The restaurants are part of an international village complex being specially built for Festac, the African arts festival being held in Nigeria in January 1977. Each restaurant is designed to provide a European menu for up to 2,500 people at a sitting.

The contract covers the entire turnkey operation, from initial design through to construction, commissioning and down to the last knife and fork. An additional requirement is a standby maintenance service for all three restaurants during the festival period.

British pipes to carry Arab water

TAC Construction Materials Ltd will be supplying approximately 9,000 tonnes of asbestos cement pipes and fittings worth over £1.75 million for the Government of Ras Al-Khaima, one of the United Arab Emirates.

The piping will be used to carry water from the mountains on the country's eastern border and for a new distribution system around the expanding town of Ras Al-Khaima.

Ice cream factory for Poland

Henry Simon Ltd of Stockport has won a contract worth £245,000 to design, supply and commission equipment for a factory for the manufacture of ice-cream powders and instant dessert in Poland. The agreement was signed with Polimex-Cekop, the Polish state trading organisation. Simon will instal the equipment in a factory at Poznan, 250 miles from Warsaw.

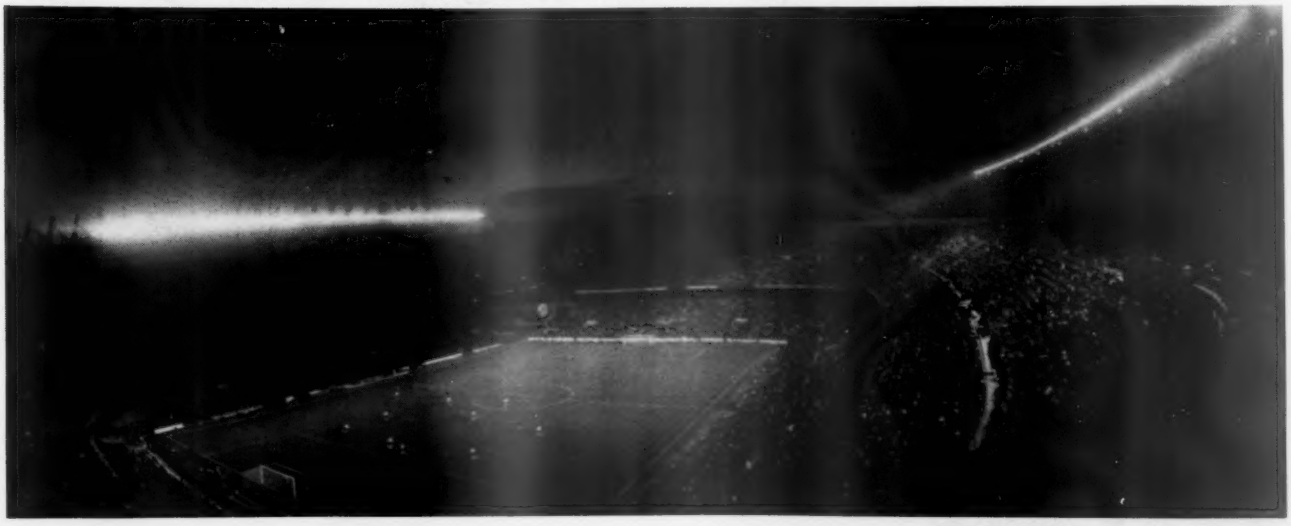
When the new factory comes on stream during the first half of 1977 it will produce 3 tons of powder an hour.

Tubes for Egyptian fertiliser plant

APV Paramount Ltd of Crawley has received an order from Foster Wheeler Italiana of Milan for 420 high alloy steel centrifugally cast tubes for the steam reformer furnace on the ammonia plant, part of the fertiliser complex being constructed at Talkha in Egypt.

Atletico Madrid scores with Thorn

Atletico Madrid's impressive 70,000 seat stadium, Vicente Calderon, where Thorn Lighting's linear metal halide lamps have recently been installed. The energy load is less than that of an earlier tungsten halogen scheme, but gives a 314 per cent increase in light level.



Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series are seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries excl. shipping	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index Series in Stock level at end-1975	1970	£ million	£ million			£ million				£ million		
						18,209	10,399	1,807	1,976			
1970	100	31,644	9,380	2,130	1,799	442	325	68	−14	733	−25	758
1971	102	32,505	9,544	1,991	1,930	99	−148	52	22	1,084	280	804
1972	104	34,402	9,754	1,739	2,071	39	−145	48	15	154	−702	856
1973	110	35,935	10,008	1,872	2,362	1,127	404	102	382	−736	−2,334	1,598
1974	110	35,612	9,805	2,024	2,251	604	666	81	−111	−3,347	−5,220	1,873
1975	108	35,374	9,767	1,737	1,964	−699	−392	−111	−23	−1,673	−3,204	1,531
1973 4th qtr	110	8,986	2,513	467	615	197	91	32	47	−395	−949	554
1974 1st qtr	106	8,853	2,532	510	591	−105	−21	18	−38	−822	−1,288	466
2nd qtr.	111	8,814	2,339	502	562	321	197	43	19	−858	−1,355	497
3rd qtr.	112	8,956	2,418	501	548	330	358	3	−39	−763	−1,242	479
4th qtr.	111	8,989	2,516	511	550	58	133	17	−53	−904	−1,335	431
1975 1st qtr.	110	8,989	2,490	471	497	−126	18	−31	−38	−452	−852	400
2nd qtr.	108	8,851	2,394	444	495	−269	−105	−54	−66	−366	−681	315
3rd qtr.	107	8,776	2,496	416	496	−214	−234	−29	38	−561	−989	428
4th qtr.	108	8,758	2,387	406	476	−90	−70	4	43	−294	−682	388
1976 1st qtr.	109	8,866	2,457	402	460	22	31	23	12	−39	−473	434
2nd qtr.	108	8,789		411	475	−161	−130	−22	−55	−553	−1,040	487
3rd qtr.										−705	−1,185	480
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	+1.3	+0.7	−0.9	−1.1	−3.8							
on a year earlier	−0.1	−1.0	−3.2	−11.1	−5.7							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted)					Labour (UK)			Visible Trade (Volume)	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Export	Import
	at 1970 prices		at 1971 prices	monthly averages									On a balance of payments basis: at 1970 prices	
Base of index £m in base year Series in	1970	1970	1971 15,895	thousands	Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972	thousands		thousands	1970 7,907	1970 7,932
1971	100.4	99.6	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	106.7	104.2
1972	102.7	102.4	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	854.9	3.7	147.3	106.6	116.3
1973	110.2	110.8	110.7	137.1	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2.6	307.0	121.8	133.9
1974	106.3	108.1	109.9	102.8	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	599.5●	2.6●	302.2●	130.1	135.2
1975	101.0	101.4	107.9	97.2	134.8	24.2	235.4	188.7	179.8	929.0	3.9	148.2●	124.9	125.6
1974 3rd qtr.	108.4	109.9	111.2	107	110.2	17.0	212.9	156.1	144.0	613.7	2.6	308.7	133.4	136.4
4th qtr.	105.0	105.8	111.3	97	115.1	18.2	222.1	164.9	153.5	..	..	..	126.5	133.0
1975 1st qtr.	104.4	105.9	111.3	108	122.0	20.3	220.9	176.0	163.6	737.8	3.1	..	128.9	125.4
2nd qtr.	100.1	100.4	108.9	94	133.6	24.3	225.6	186.3	176.3	847.4	3.6	164.4	122.6	122.2
3rd qtr.	99.4	99.5	105.5	103	139.4	26.6	239.3	193.4	185.5	1,000.0	4.2	133.6	120.0	127.4
4th qtr.	100.3	100.0	105.8	84	144.2	25.3	256.1	199.1	193.8	1,132.1	4.8	113.6	128.3	127.2
1976 1st qtr.	101.5	101.5	107.3	106	149.4	22.5	266.5	208.9	205.5	1,223.2	5.2	115.5	131.6	124.0
2nd qtr.	102.0	103.1	106.7	106	154.9	16.0	292.6	214.4	212.4	1,246.5	5.3	119.6	137.1	137.1
3rd qtr.			108.6 p		158.5	13.7	306.6 p	223.1 p		1,307.5	5.5	124.7	132.8 p	137.3 p
1975 Sept.	100.0	100.1	106.1	120	140.5	26.6	243.2	194.9	186.0	1,034.4	4.4	131.1	121.9	123.1
Oct.	100.6	100.5	104.8	85	142.5	25.9	252.3	197.0	187.5	1,088.7	4.6	118.9	130.5	128.9
Nov.	100.7	100.5	105.2	81	144.2	25.2	256.7	198.9	195.6	1,133.0	4.8	111.8	123.4	128.0
Dec.	99.6	99.0	107.0	87	146.0	24.9	259.5	201.5	198.2	1,174.6	5.0	110.1	130.9	124.7
1976 Jan.	101.0	101.6	109.8	115	147.9	23.4	261.5	204.8	202.1	1,210.5	5.1	111.1	131.5	125.1
Feb.	101.9	101.4	107.1	101	149.8	22.9	263.9	207.3	206.4	1,232.4	5.2	113.5	128.4	127.0
Mar.	101.7	101.6	105.5	101	150.6	21.2	274.2	208.6	207.9	1,226.6	5.2	122.0	134.9	119.9
Apr.	102.0	102.8	108.5	118	153.5	18.9	286.3	211.5	210.1	1,233.7	5.2	123.9	134.8	134.0
May	103.9	105.7	105.7	112	155.2	15.4	292.0	214.8	211.4	1,250.0	5.3	120.6	138.2	139.7
June	100.2	100.7	106.1	88	156.0	13.8	299.6	217.0	215.7	1,255.7	5.3	114.3	138.4	137.7
July	101.8	103.2	108.3	87	156.3	12.9	302.0	219.8	217.6	1,294.6	5.5	117.6	129.8	140.0
Aug.	100.8	101.9	108.9	115	158.5	13.8	303.9 p	223.3 p	217.7 p	1,309.4	5.6	127.5	132.1	131.4
Sept.			108½p	94 p	160.6	14.3	314.0 p	226.2 p		1,318.6	5.6	129.0	136.6 p	140.4 p
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	−1.6	−1.4	+1.8	−6.9	+2.3		+4.8	+4.0	+3.4	+4.9		+4.3	−3	—
on a year earlier	+1.8	+2.6	+2.9	−4.2	+13.7		+26.2	+15.4	+17.7	+30.8		−6.7	+11	+8

p Provisional pe Preliminary estimate † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100 .. not available ● Average of 11 months

Inquiries: 01-215 3453

Index of retail prices for September

The index of retail prices for all items for 14 September, 1976 was 160.6 (January 15, 1974 = 100). This represents an increase of 1.3 per cent on August 1976 (158.5) and of 14.3 per cent on September 1975 (140.5).

The rise in the index in September was due mainly to increases in food prices, particularly in the prices of potatoes and some other vegetables, milk and other dairy produce, meat and bacon; and to increases in the prices of motor cars and of men's and women's outer clothing.

The movements for the main groups of the index are shown in table 2.

Inquiries: 01-214 8748, 8440 or 8561.

TABLE 1

	All items			All items except seasonal food		
	Index 15 Jan 1974 = 100	Percentage change over		Index 15 Jan 1974 = 100	Percentage change over	
		1 month	12 months		1 month	6 months
1976						
April	153.5	+1.9	+18.9	152.2	+1.8	+6.6
May	155.2	+1.1	+15.4	154.2	+1.3	+6.7
June	156.0	+0.5	+13.8	155.4	+0.8	+6.4
July	156.3	+0.2	+12.9	156.8	+0.9	+6.2
August	158.5	+1.4	+13.8	158.5	+1.1	+6.4
September	160.6	+1.3	+14.3	160.0	+0.9	+7.0

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available	r revised
— nil or less than half	* five week period
the final digit shown	• fifty-three week
p provisional	period

TABLE 2

	Indices (15 January 1974 = 100)		Percentage change over the month
	17 August 1976	14 Sep 1976	
All items	158.5	160.6	+1.3
All items excluding food	158.6	159.5	+0.6
Food	158.4	164.4	+3.8
Seasonal food	163.6	178.6	+9.2
Other food	157.8	161.9	+2.6
Alcoholic drink	163.3	164.1	+0.5
Tobacco	175.3	175.3	Nil
Housing	144.5	145.4	+0.6
Fuel and light	187.0	187.3	+0.2
Durable household goods	143.3	143.8	+0.3
Clothing and footwear	140.5	142.4	+1.4
Transport and vehicles	169.5	170.6	+0.6
Miscellaneous goods	163.4	163.8	+0.2
Services	160.9	161.6	+0.4
Meals out	159.9	161.2	+0.8

Retail sales – provisional estimate for September

Volume

The *provisional* estimate of the seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales in September is 108½ (1971 = 100), about the same as in July and August.

The volume of sales in the third quarter was nearly 2 per cent higher than in the previous quarter. However, the average level of trade during the first nine months of 1976 was slightly below the annual average for 1975.

Value

Based on non-seasonally adjusted data, the *provisional* estimate of the value of total retail sales in September was 15 per cent higher than in September 1975. In the first nine months of 1976, the average value of sales was 14 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1975.

	Retail sales: volume seasonally adjusted index (1971 = 100)		Retail sales: value not seasonally adjusted – percentage change compared with a year earlier
1975	1st quarter	111.3	+22
	2nd quarter	108.9	+24
	3rd quarter	105.5	+18
	4th quarter	105.8	+15
1976	1st quarter	107.3	+15
	2nd quarter	106.7	+12
	3rd quarter	108.6 (prov)	+15 (prov)
1975	June	104.1	+20
	July	105.4	+19
	August	104.8	+16
	September	106.1	+18
1976	June	106.1	+13
	July	108.3	+14
	August	108.9	+17
	September	108½ (prov.)	+15(prov)

Notes

The volume index is given to the nearest half per cent. The percentage increase in value compared with a year earlier is given to the nearest whole number.

A detailed note on the method of computation of the provisional estimate was published in *Trade and Industry*, 21 February 1974.

Estimates are based on early returns to the monthly inquiry. These returns now cover approaching one half, by turnover, of information available at the final stage. Past evidence suggests that the average error (ignoring sign) in the provisional estimates will be about 0.5 per cent. However, as with all estimates based on partial data, caution must be exercised in interpreting a single month's figure.

When using the volume figures, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus, the relative accuracy with which volume changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

The value estimates are compiled inclusive of VAT, and will, therefore, reflect changes in the rates of VAT. The volume estimates, however, are not affected by these changes since the retail price indices used to 'deflate' the value data are themselves inclusive of VAT.

The seasonally adjusted series include, where appropriate, adjustments to make allowance for the inclusion of an extra week in the January 1975 trading period. No adjustments are made to the non-seasonally adjusted data.

The provisional figures are made available by press notice in advance of this article. The final figures for September will be published in a press notice on Monday, 8 November 1976.

Inquiries: 01-215 3705.

'T & I' index inquiries

Readers wanting to know when articles and items of information were published in *Trade and Industry* should consult the published indexes which are issued free to subscribers. For material published in recent months, inquiries of this kind can be made to the Department of Industry Library's indexing section, tel. 01-215 5842. (Alternative no. 01-215 5051).

Retailers' stocks in August

Based on the non-seasonally adjusted data of Table 1, the level of stocks at book value in August was 13 per cent higher than a year earlier; at constant prices it was 1 per cent higher.

The estimate of the value of physical increase of retailers' stocks at 1970 prices and seasonally adjusted (Table 2) suggests that stock levels were little changed in August, following falls in previous months.

Notes

1 The book value of retailers' stocks in the United Kingdom at end of December 1971 was £1,886 million.

2 With the introduction of VAT, the book values are being valued exclusive of this tax. There is, therefore, a discontinuity in the series in 1973 between March and April. For the year up to March, 1974, the usual comparisons with a year earlier for the book value series have not been given. From April, 1974, the basis of valuation is comparable with that of a year earlier and the percentages changes have been re-introduced. The estimates at constant prices take account of this method of valuation, and are on a consistent basis throughout.

3 For the estimates at constant prices, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus, the relative accuracy with which constant price changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

4 The statistics given in table 2 were introduced in an article in the issue of 28 March 1975.

5 Long-run series back to 1966 for both table 1 and table 2 were included in the article in the issue of 17 September 1976.

Inquiries: 01-215 3320.

TABLE 1 Level of retailers' stocks

Index numbers (end 1971 = 100) *and percentage increase on a year earlier* — At cost at end of month

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
At book values:												
1971	89	91	94	95	95	97	95	95	98	106	110	100
1972	96	99	101	102	102	105	102	102	104	113	119	106
1973	103	107	112	112	112	117	116	118	123	134	143	132
1974	128	129	135	139	144	145	144	143	149	161	171	154
1975	148	151	158	154	159	161	160	160	170	187	201	181
1976	172	174	184	185	184	184	180	181				
1972	8	8	8	7	8	8	7	8	7	7	8	6
1973	8	8	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1974	—	—	—	24	28	24	24	21	21	20	19	17
1975	15	17	17	11	11	11	11	12	15	16	18	18
1976	16	15	17	20	16	14	13	13				
At constant (1970) prices:												
1971	94	96	98	98	97	99	96	96	98	106	111	100
1972	95	97	100	100	100	102	99	99	101	108	114	101
1973	98	101	105	110	114	117	115	115	119	127	135	123
1974	118	117	120	121	122	121	119	117	119	126	132	117
1975	110	109	113	108	109	110	107	106	112	122	129	115
1976	108	109	114	113	112	112	108	108				
1972	1	2	2	2	3	4	3	4	2	2	3	1
1973	3	4	5	10	13	15	16	16	18	18	19	22
1974	21	16	14	9	8	3	3	1	−1	−1	−2	−5
1975	−7	−6	−6	−11	−11	−10	−10	−9	−6	−4	−2	−1
1976	−1	−1	1	5	2	2	1	1				

TABLE 2 Value of physical increase of retailers' stocks at 1970 prices

Seasonally adjusted — £ million

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1971	−11	3	−8	2	−12	17	−7	16	5	24	−14	7
1972	−7	9	−1	13	6	21	−16	25	−22	9	−6	−16
1973	34	25	23	106	57	42	15	21	12	3	11	33
1974	12	−50	—	33	25	−39	10	−24	−25	−4	−19	−30
1975	−19	−30	11	−76	20	−10	5	−6	39	41	15	−13
1976	−24	−10	46	−5	−25	−25	−14	5				

See note 2.

Index of industrial production for August

The provisional estimate for the total all-industries' index in August 1976 is 100.8 and that for manufacturing alone is 101.9 (1970 = 100).

It is provisionally estimated that the average levels of the all-industries' index and the corresponding index for manufacturing industries in the three months to August 1976, before any adjustment to allow for the use of delivery indicators (see below), were some 1½ per cent below their levels in the three months to May. Such comparisons, however, are affected by changes in the incidence of industrial holidays at the end of May and the beginning of June, which may not be fully reflected in the seasonal adjustment process, and the latest estimates suggest that the underlying level of industrial output probably changed little in recent months. The analysis by broad market sectors shows that, over the same period, the output of the consumer goods industries held steady whilst that of the investment goods and intermediate goods industries fell by 2 per cent and 3 per cent respectively, the latter including a reduction in the output of fuels during the very hot weather.

Many of the series used in compiling the index of production, in particular for manufacturing industry, measure deliveries rather than production. Deliveries and production in a month may differ because of movements in stocks of finished goods and work in progress. The use of such series for some industries resulted in the all-industries' index overstating the level of output in the third and fourth quarters of 1975 by nearly 1 per cent and ½ per cent, respectively, and understating it by nearly ½ per cent in the first quarter of 1976. It is provisionally estimated that the level of output might be overstated by about ½ per cent in the second quarter of this year.

On the longer-term comparison, the all-industries' index in the latest three months was nearly 2 per cent above its level in the same period a year ago; the corresponding rise for manufacturing industry was about 2½ per cent.

Inquiries: 01-233 8310.

Index of industrial production

Seasonally adjusted

1970 = 100

	Total all industries	All industries other than construction	Mining and quarrying	Manufacturing industries												
				Total	Food, drink and tobacco					Engineering and allied industries						
					Total	Food	Drink and tobacco	Coal and petroleum products	Chemicals and allied industries	Total	Mechanical engineering	Instrument engineering	Electrical engineering	Shipbuilding and marine engineering	Total vehicles	Metals goods n.e.s.
Weights	1,000	850	37	745	84	52	32	7	58	319	100	15	67	16	73	48
1971	100.4	100.0	100.0	99.6	100.6	99.9	101.7	103.3	102.1	99.2	100.2	100.8	101.7	96.6	99.4	93.6
1972	102.7	102.3	84.1	102.4	104.9	104.0	106.4	102.6	108.1	100.0	95.0	93.0	110.2	91.8	103.7	95.7
1973	110.2	110.7	92.6	110.8	109.3	106.3	114.2	110.0	121.2	107.8	103.4	101.7	125.2	95.1	105.1	103.1
1974	106.3	107.8	79.1	108.1	109.9	104.5	118.8	106.0	127.7	106.4	103.4	104.9	120.6	99.4	101.3	103.5
1975	101.0	102.4	86.3	101.4	108.5	100.9	121.0	92.0	115.8	101.6	102.1	100.8	113.3	103.4	94.7	94.5
1974 2nd qtr.	108.0	109.5	86.3	110.0	110.0	105.6	117.3	111.4	129.5	107.6	104.1	106.5	120.0	98.4	104.1	106.5
3rd qtr.	108.4	110.3	88.2	109.9	109.3	104.3	117.4	104.3	131.3	108.8	104.6	106.0	124.6	100.0	104.5	105.6
4th qtr.	105.0	106.9	88.0	105.8	107.6	100.4	119.3	104.9	123.3	106.3	104.2	106.5	118.9	101.9	101.8	101.2
1975 1st qtr.	104.4	106.3	87.6	105.9	108.4	101.4	119.9	95.9	118.8	106.5	104.8	104.8	119.8	103.0	100.2	102.7
2nd qtr.	100.1	101.3	85.6	100.4	106.9	99.0	119.7	91.6	112.9	101.4	104.3	105.5	112.2	103.6	91.2	93.6
3rd qtr.	99.4	100.4	84.7	99.5	108.5	99.2	123.7	92.3	112.3	100.2	100.1	99.2	113.5	102.6	94.2	90.7
4th qtr.	100.3	101.5	87.2	100.0	110.4	104.0	120.8	88.2	119.2	98.4	99.2	93.9	107.5	104.5	93.3	91.1
1976 1st qtr.	101.5	102.9	88.6	101.5	106.8	102.5	113.9	94.6	123.2	99.0	98.7	97.6	108.0	104.2	93.6	93.8
2nd qtr.	102.0	103.9	89.5	103.1	109.8	103.1	120.8	96.6	126.0	100.1	98.3	105.6	111.4	104.1	94.0	94.3
1975 Aug.	98.3	99.1	85	98.3	107	99	121	95	109	99	100	99	114	103	91	89
Sept.	100.0	101.2	86	100.1	110	100	127	92	117	100	99	97	113	103	94	91
Oct.	100.6	101.9	87	100.5	110	103	122	93	118	99	99	94	109	106	92	93
Nov.	100.7	101.9	88	100.5	110	103	120	85	118	99	99	94	108	104	96	92
Dec.	99.6	100.7	87	99.0	111	106	121	87	121	97	99	94	106	104	93	88
1976 Jan.	101.0	102.3	91	101.6	104	101	109	91	120	99	99	96	107	104	93	96
Feb.	101.9	103.4	88	101.4	106	102	112	94	123	99	98	97	108	105	95	93
Mar.	101.7	103.1	87	101.6	110	104	120	98	126	99	99	100	109	104	93	93
Apr.	102.0	103.9	90	102.8	110	104	121	99	125	100	99	103	111	104	95	94
May	103.9	106.2	90	105.7	109	103	118	92	124	103	98	106	112	105	100	101
Jun.	100.2	101.7	89	100.7	110	103	123	98	129	97	97	108	112	103	87	88
Jul.	101.8	103.8	87	103.2	109	101	122	95	124	101	96	109	112	103	104	89
Aug.	100.8	102.6	90	101.9	109	101	121	92	124	98	97	109	112	102	87	94
% change latest 3 months on previous 3 months	−1.6	−1.6	0.0	−1.4	−0.5	−2.1	+1.7	−1.6	+0.3	−1.8	−2.2	+5.9	+1.3	−1.5	−3.7	−5.7
on a year earlier	+1.8	+2.5	+5.5	+2.6	+1.6	+2.6	+0.2	+3.7	+13.1	−1.5	−4.6	+7.4	−0.5	+0.3	−0.4	−1.3

	Manufacturing industries (continued)														Construction	Gas, electricity and water
	Metal manufacture			Textiles, leather and clothing				Bricks, pottery, glass, etc.								
	Total	Ferrous	Non-ferrous	Total	Textiles	Leather, leather goods and fur	Clothing and footwear	Total	Bricks, cement, etc.	Pottery and glass	Timber, furniture, etc.	Paper, printing and publishing	Other manufacturing industries			
Weights	57	43	14	76	49	3	24	27	17	10	22	64	31		146	72
1971	91.3	89.8	95.8	102.3	100.7	103.0	105.4	108.1	107.0	109.8	103.0	97.3	99.7		103.0	103.9
1972	91.4	89.4	97.3	104.6	103.0	104.5	107.3	115.2	115.1	115.3	113.5	102.6	104.2		104.8	111.2
1973	100.0	97.3	108.5	110.1	108.6	101.0	114.6	127.1	125.5	129.5	132.6	112.1	116.5		107.3	118.1
1974	91.7	87.7	104.2	103.0	99.1	94.8	112.2	116.6	108.4	129.4	112.5	108.8	114.2		98.3	118.6
1975	78.6	74.2	92.2	99.1	93.8	92.5	110.8	107.9	99.6	120.8	110.2	95.6	103.1		93.3	120.4
1974 2nd qtr.	93.2	88.7	107.3	107.3	104.7	99.0	114.0	119.9	113.5	130.0	116.0	111.3	119.1		99.8	115.1
3rd qtr.	95.1	91.9	105.0	105.2	101.3	94.8	114.7	117.4	108.9	130.6	111.0	109.8	116.8		97.6	124.7
4th qtr.	88.3	84.7	99.5	99.2	92.8	88.0	113.9	112.3	103.9	125.4	106.5	104.5	108.4		94.1	127.1
1975 1st qtr.	91.0	88.6	98.6	101.1	94.1	89.8	117.1	112.1	103.2	126.0	112.0	101.1	109.3		93.3	120.6
2nd qtr.	75.7	70.8	90.8	98.5	93.6	90.0	109.8	105.6	98.4	116.8	109.7	94.9	99.8		93.4	118.6
3rd qtr.	72.1	66.6	89.2	98.3	92.7	93.3	110.6	105.9	98.0	118.3	108.2	93.1	100.0		93.1	118.1
4th qtr.	75.6	70.8	90.2	98.3	94.7	96.8	105.9	107.9	98.8	122.0	110.8	93.5	103.1		93.4	124.1
1976 1st qtr.	83.4	79.9	94.2	100.7	96.7	97.6	109.2	109.5	101.9	121.3	110.2	95.7	108.7		93.4	124.9
2nd qtr.	87.5	84.6	96.7	98.1	94.5	96.0	105.6	113.8	103.7	129.5	108.3	99.3	109.4		90.6	120.8
1975 Aug.	72	67	89	98	93	93	110	104	95	119	107	92	95			115
Sept.	71	66	88	98	92	93	110	107	99	120	108	93	106			121
Oct.	81	77	92	99	95	97	107	108	100	122	111	95	101			123
Nov.	78	74	89	100	97	97	105	107	98	122	112	93	106			124
Dec.	68	61	89	97	93	97	106	108	99	123	110	93	102			125
1976 Jan.	88	86	95	106	103	98	113	106	100	115	111	95	106			116
Feb.	82	78	94	100	96	98	109	111	102	125	112	97	110			132
Mar.	80	75	93	96	91	98	105	112	104	124	108	95	111			127
Apr.	85	82	96	97	94	96	103	113	104	127	108	100	109			123
May	101	99	107	102	98	96	112	114	102	132	114	100	111			120
Jun.	76	73	87	95	91	96	101	115	105	130	102	98	108			120
Jul.	86	82	97	100	97	96	107	116	105	134	109	99	105			119
Aug.	86	85	90	100	97	95	108	115	105	129	109	97	107			118
% change latest 3 months on previous 3 months	−6.6	−6.2	−7.8	−0.1	+0.7	−1.0	−1.4	+2.0	+1.6	+2.5	−2.9	−0.5	−3.1			−3.6
on a year earlier	+15.3	+21.3	+1.6	−0.5	+2.1	+3.7	−5.6	+9.7	+7.8	+12.2	−1.9	+5.3	+8.1			+1.6

Inquiries: 01-233 8310.

Current account of the United Kingdom balance of payments for September

In September 1976 the current account is estimated to have been in deficit by £205 million. The deficit on trade in goods was £365 million, seasonally adjusted, and the balance on services and other current transactions is estimated to have been running at a monthly surplus of about £160 million.

In the third quarter there was a current account deficit of £705 million compared with £553 million in the previous quarter.

£ million seasonally adjusted

	Current balance	Visible balance: Trade in goods	Invisible balance: Services and other current transactions
1974	−3,347	−5,220	+1,873
1975	−1,673	−3,204	+1,531
1975 1st quarter	−452	−852	+400
2nd quarter	−366	−681	+315
3rd quarter	−561	−989	+428
4th quarter	−294	−682	+388
1976 1st quarter	−39	−473	+434
2nd quarter	−553	−1,040	+487
3rd quarter	−705	−1,185	+480 (a)
1976 April	−153	−315	+162 (b)
May	−211	−374	+163 (b)
June	−189	−351	+162 (b)
July	−367	−527	+160 (a)
August	−133	−293	+160 (a)
September	−205	−365	+160 (a)

(a) These figures are projections and are subject to revision as information becomes available.
(b) One-third of the appropriate calendar quarter's estimate. Monthly figures of invisibles are not available.

Visible trade

Summary: Figures on a balance of payments basis (see tables 1 and 3)

In September, there was a deficit on visible trade of £365 million, seasonally adjusted; the value of exports was £2,140 million and the value of imports £2,505 million. The deficit was £72 million more than in August, a rise of £101 million in exports being exceeded by a rise of £173 million in imports. The terms of trade index was little changed, the result of increases of 1½ per cent in the export unit value index and 2 per cent in the import unit value index. In terms of volume, exports increased by 3½ per cent between the two months while imports rose by 7 per cent.

In the third quarter of 1976, the visible trade deficit was £1,185 million compared with £1,040 million in the previous quarter. Exports were valued at £6,134 million, a rise of 2½ per cent compared with the second quarter while imports, at £7,319 million, increased by 4 per cent. By volume, exports fell by 3 per cent while imports were little changed. Between the second and third quarters, the export unit value index rose by 5½ per cent and the import unit value index by 5 per cent.

Exports (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Area analysis (see table 4). The value of exports to the developed countries as a whole was 3 per cent higher in the third quarter than in the second quarter. Exports to the EEC and North America rose by 4 per cent and 1½ per cent respectively over this period, while the value of shipments to the rest of Western Europe was unchanged. There was an increase of 6½ per cent in goods despatched to the other developed countries (Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Japan). Exports to the developing countries in aggregate rose by 3 per cent, including a 4 per cent rise to the oil exporting countries. In contrast, shipments to the centrally planned economies were 3 per cent lower.

Commodity analysis (see tables 5, 6 and 7). In the third quarter exports of manufactured goods were 2 per cent higher in value but 2½ per cent lower by volume than in the previous quarter. Within this broad category, shipments of metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures increased by 11 per cent in value and 3½ per cent in volume. The volumes of chemical and textile exports were 1½ per cent and 2 per cent higher respectively, with rises of 6½ per cent and 7½ per cent in the values of deliveries. The volume of shipments of all other commodity groups fell in the third quarter. The volumes of machinery and of road motor vehicles and other transport equipment exported were 3 per cent and 6 per cent lower respectively, although these reductions were broadly offset by increased prices so that the value of deliveries of machinery increased slightly while shipments of transport equipment were unchanged. The value of exports of non-manufactures increased by 9 per cent in the latest quarter. There was an increase of 3½ per cent in value of exports of food, beverages and tobacco reflecting both increased prices and volume. The rise of 5½ per cent in the value of shipments of basic materials resulted from a fall in the volume of deliveries being outweighed by higher prices. Shipments of fuels were 18 per cent higher by value and 11 per cent higher by volume.

Imports: Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Commodity analysis (see tables 8, 10 and 11). The value of imports of food, beverages and tobacco fell slightly between the second and third quarters of 1976, both volume and price being little changed. Fuel imports increased by 11 per cent in value, chiefly the result of higher prices but with a volume increase of 2½ per cent also contributing. Imports of industrial materials in total rose by 4 per cent in value, a 7 per cent rise in prices partly offset by a 1½ per

TABLE 1 Visible trade on balance of payments basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million

	Exports (fob)	Imports (fob)	Visible balance
1974	15,899	21,119	−5,220
1975 r	18,768	21,972	−3,204
1974 1st quarter	3,481	4,769	−1,288
2nd quarter	4,008	5,363	−1,355
3rd quarter	4,223	5,465	−1,242
4th quarter	4,187	5,522	1,335
1975 1st quarter	4,531	5,383	−852
2nd quarter	4,479	5,160	−681
3rd quarter	4,632	5,621	−989
4th quarter	5,126	5,808	−682
1976 1st quarter	5,420	5,893	−473
2nd quarter	5,992	7,032	−1,040
3rd quarter p	6,134	7,319	−1,185
1976 April	1,922	2,237	−315
May	2,009	2,383	−374
June	2,061	2,412	−351
July	1,955	2,482	−527
August r	2,039	2,332	−293
September p	2,140	2,505	−365
Percentage change 3rd quarter on 2nd quarter	+2½	+4	

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates

TABLE 2 Invisible trade ¶

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million

	Credits	Debits	Invisible balance
1974	10,153	8,280	+1,873
1975	11,038	9,507	+1,531
1974 1st quarter	2,467	2,001	+466
2nd quarter	2,528	2,031	+497
3rd quarter	2,522	2,043	+479
4th quarter	2,636	2,205	+431
1975 1st quarter	2,659	2,259	+400
2nd quarter	2,701	2,386	+315
3rd quarter	2,789	2,361	+428
4th quarter	2,889	2,501	+388
1976 1st quarter	3,031	2,597	+434
2nd quarter	3,245	2,758	+487
July			+160*
August			+160*
September			+160*

¶ See note 7.
* These figures are projections and are subject to revision as information becomes available.

TABLE 3 Export and import unit value and volume index numbers on a balance of payments basis

Indices 1970 = 100

	Unit values (not seasonally adjusted)			Volume (seasonally adjusted)	
	Exports	Imports	Terms of trade†	Exports	Imports
1974	162.7	218.0	74.6	130.1	135.2
1975	198.5	245.7	80.8	124.9	125.6
1974 1st quarter	147.2	194.9	75.5	126.7	133.9
2nd quarter	159.9	218.7	73.1	134.0	137.5
3rd quarter	168.1	224.5	74.9	133.4	136.4
4th quarter	175.8	231.7	75.9	126.5	133.0
1975 1st quarter	184.9	240.5	76.9	128.9	125.4
2nd quarter	193.4	241.1	80.2	122.6	122.2
3rd quarter	202.2	247.1	81.8	120.0	127.4
4th quarter	210.1	260.4	80.7	128.3	127.2
1976 1st quarter	219.0	270.0	81.1	131.6	124.0
2nd quarter	234.2	293.6	79.8	137.1	137.1
3rd quarter p	247.4	308.1	80.3	132.8	137.3
1976 April	228.4	285.4	80.0	134.8	134.0
May	233.9	294.2	79.5	138.2	139.7
June	240.4	301.1	79.8	138.4	137.7
July	242.6	305.2	79.5	129.8	140.0
August r	247.9	306.7	80.8	132.1	131.4
September p	251.7	312.4	80.6	136.6	140.4
Percentage change 3rd quarter on 2nd quarter	+5½	+5	+½	−3	—

† Export Unit Value Index as a percentage of the Import Unit Value Index.
p Provisional estimates.
r Revised estimates.

cent fall in volume. Within the group, the value of basic materials and chemicals increased by 10 per cent and 6 per cent respectively, mainly the result of higher prices, although increased volumes also contributed. In contrast the value of imports of other semi-manufactures was unchanged, higher prices being offset by a reduction in volume. The value of imports of finished manufactures increased by 8 per cent, with price and volume contributing broadly equally to the rise. Within the group the price rise was spread relatively evenly over all components. Machinery imports were 6½ per cent higher in value terms and 2½ per cent higher in volume terms (and 11 per cent and 5½ per cent respectively, excluding the imports of North Sea production installations). Imports of road motor vehicles rose by 20 per cent in value while imports of other transport equipment were 33 per cent lower. Taken together these two groups increased in volume by 3 per cent between the two quarters. Imports of other finished manufactures rose by 6½ per cent in value, mainly the result of higher prices.

Area analysis (see table 9). The value of imports from the developed countries in aggregate rose by 3½ per cent between the second and third quarters. There was an increase of 7½ per cent in imports from North America while arrivals from the rest of Western Europe and the other developed countries (Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Japan) were respectively 11 per cent and 17 per cent higher. In contrast, imports from the EEC fell by 3 per cent, reflecting the arrival of North Sea production installations in the second quarter. Imports from the developing countries were 14 per cent higher, with a 24 per cent rise in deliveries from the oil exporting countries and an increase of 2½ per cent in imports from the other developing countries. Imports from the centrally planned economies fell by 12 per cent.

Invisible trade (see table 2)
The latest estimate of invisibles relates to the second quarter of 1976 when credits on services and other current transactions were £3,245 million and debits £2,758 million, giving a surplus of £487 million for the quarter. The monthly surplus is projected to be running currently at the rate of £160 million.

Notes
1 Trade figures on a balance of payments basis. The seasonally adjusted import and export figures on a balance of payments basis are obtained by making various adjustments to the seasonallyadjusted figures derived from those recorded in the monthly *Overseas Trade Statistics*. These adjustments are summarised in table 13 of this article. Some are valuation adjustments; the principal of these is the deduction from the import figure of freight and insurance costs. The other adjustments relate to coverage, either to bring in items not in the Trade Statistics (for example on the import side ships built and delivered abroad direct to UK owners) or to remove items which are in the Trade Statistics (mainly returned goods and goods for processing and repair). The adjustment of imports to a balance of payments basis excludes the values of deliveries of US military aircraft (including spares and some missiles) but includes the payments for those imports which are mainly being financed by a special Exim Bank credit (the values involved are now small). All these adjustments are described in greater detail in the annual *'Pink Book' United Kingdom*

TABLE 4 Exports: areas¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob

		Developed countries				Developing countries		
	Total	EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Oil exporting countries	Other	Centrally planned economies
1975	19,929	6,419	3,372	2,332	1,879	2,278	2,923	666
1975 4th quarter	5,464	1,851	915	632	472	614	759	167
1976 1st quarter	5,775	1,969	916	695	508	704	842	175
2nd quarter	6,337	2,251	1,062	784	468	757	807	189
3rd quarter p	5,489	2,339	1,060	796	497	785	825	183
1976 July	2,062	739	321	258	163	245	257	58
August r	2,157	749	363	269	166	266	291	61
September p	2,270	851	376	269	168	275	278	64
Percentage change 3rd quarter on 2nd quarter	+2½	+4	—	+1½	+6½	+4	+2	−3

¶ See Note 2. r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

Balance of Payments 1964–74 (table 4 and pp. 64–67) and in an article in the issue of *Trade and Industry* dated 4 November 1970.

Since firm figures for the adjustments do not become available as quickly as the recorded trade statistics, the figures for imports and exports on a balance of payments basis in the latest months are at this stage preliminary estimates and liable to revision.

2 The adjustments described at Note 1 are made only for the monthly total of exports and imports (table 1) and the monthly figures of trade in petroleum and petroleum products (table 12). They are not estimated for the area and other commodity analyses of trade. The values of total trade and the main components of exports and imports in tables 4 to 11 are available only on the Overseas Trade Statistics basis. Whereas comment on total trade and trade in petroleum and petroleum products relates to figures for exports and imports on a balance of payments basis, analyses of the area and other commodity patterns of trade in this article are based on the figures on the Overseas Trade Statistics basis in tables 4 to 11. The main components of trade are seasonally adjusted independently from the totals and in consequence do not always add exactly to the seasonally adjusted totals.

3 Visible balance. The visible balance is the difference between the import and export figures on a balance of payments basis obtained as described in Note 1 above. Since, as noted above, the import and export figures for the most recent months are provisional, it follows that the monthly visible balances for these months are also provisional and liable to revision.

The monthly figures for the visible balance are published only on a seasonally adjusted basis. Since the balance is the difference of two large and variable figures, it is itself liable to fluctuation and undue significance should not be attached to a single month's figure; it is more useful to consider the average balance over three or more months.

4 Trends. Even after allowing for seasonal influences, the sequence of monthly figures is usually too variable to give a satisfactory indication of the underlying trend. While it is possible to construct elaborate estimates of trend these cannot be applied to the most recent months, and a simple method of giving some guidance on underlying movements in the most recent past is to take averages of three months. Apart from occasions when major disturbances distort the flows of trade, the three-monthly average gives a quite good short-term guide and has the merit of simplicity.

5 Recording of exports. The present system for the documentation of exports aimed at securing their full recording was introduced in October 1971; the system, and the methods used to monitor the accuracy of the resulting figures, were described in an article in *Trade and Industry*, 15 February 1973.

Regular assessments of the quality of recording showed that, during 1974, adjustments increasing the export figures by between £6 million and £8 million a month were necessary. Continued monitoring has shown that since then there has been no need to make adjustments for either a shortfall in documentation or a change in the speed of submission of documents.

TABLE 5 Exports: commodity classes¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob

					Manufactures									
						Machinery and transport equipment								
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures	Miscellaneous
1975	19,929	1,428	561	814	16,464	8,236	5,784	1,737	715	2,179	1,839	698	3,512	662
1975 4th quarter	5,464	396	156	219	4,518	2,208	1,564	456	210	579	451	190	1,045	179
1976 1st quarter	5,775	404	164	243	4,763	2,376	1,679	512	190	683	484	204	1,048	194
2nd quarter	6,337	398	186	281	5,287	2,525	1,741	561	203	738	582	223	1,268	168
3rd quarter p	6,489	413	196	332	5,403	2,531	1,758	563	201	785	644	240	1,183	176
1976 July	2,062	123	62	113	1,717	800	555	177	72	252	207	77	376	54
August r	2,157	142	64	104	1,788	860	598	185	69	260	222	79	370	56
September p	2,270	149	70	114	1,898	871	604	201	61	273	216	84	437	67
Percentage change 3rd quarter on 2nd quarter	+2½	+3½	+5½	+18	+2	—	+1	+½	−1	+6½	+11	+7½	−6½	+4½

* Not seasonally adjusted. ¶ See note 2. r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

TABLE 6 Exports: volume indices Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
Weights	1,000	64	34	26	844	410	276	134	97	119	49	169
1975	129.8	155	107	93	130	133	136	128	142	102	105	145
1975 4th quarter	133.7	170	118	90	133	131	134	130	145	93	113	160
1976 1st quarter	137.2	166	119	93	137	136	139	130	168	101	117	159
2nd quarter	141.9	150	122	103	143	135	135	132	169	114	123	180
3rd quarter p	137.6	152	118	114	139	130	132	124	172	118	125	160
1976 July	134.0	138	113	123	136	126	127	124	170	117	120	155
August r	136.8	155	117	108	138	131	134	121	171	123	124	149
September p	141.9	162	125	112	145	132	134	127	175	115	132	174
Percentage change 3rd quarter on 2nd quarter	−3	+1	−3	+11	−2½	−4½	−3	−6	+1½	+3½	+2	−11

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

6 Timing. The figures for exports relate to documents received in the Statistical Office of HM Customs and Excise up to a few days before the end of the calendar month. On average export documents arrive at the Customs Statistical Office within a fortnight of the shipment of goods, so that the documents relate to goods passing through the ports in the month ending about the middle of the calendar month to which they are attributed. The figures for imports relate to documents received at the Customs Statistical Office up to the third working day after the end of the month. Importers are usually required to present their documents before they can obtain Customs clearance and remove the goods. Thus the import statistics correspond closely to movements through the ports during the calendar month to which they are attributed.

7 Invisible trade (services and other current transactions) covers the following items: Government services and transfer payments; all other services including sea and air transport, travel, and insurance, banking and other financial transactions; overseas income in the form of interest, profits and dividends; and private transfers. The monthly figures are inevitably less precise than those for visible trade for several reasons: the data are not available on a monthly basis (some are reported quarterly, others less frequently) and the figures are, therefore, essentially projections based on past trends; revisions, affecting particularly gross credits and debits, but often the balance as well, are more frequent; and the gross figures themselves include a number of items which are appropriately recorded as the net profit or surplus arising on the transactions.

8 Trade in petroleum and petroleum products. Trade in petroleum and petroleum products (table 12) accounts for almost all the trade in Fuels, Section 3 of SITC(R) which is included in tables 5 and 8. Import and export figures are shown for crude oil and for the rest of the division which includes petroleum partly refined for further refining and petroleum products (eg motor spirit, lamp oil and white spirit, distillate fuels, residual fuel oils, lubricating oils and greases, etc.).

The figures of value and tonnage of crude oil imports in table 12 are based on reports to HM Customs and Excise and have been seasonally adjusted with the same seasonal and length of month factors as have been used for the Fuels total in table 8. These figures cannot be directly compared with the monthly import tonnages originating from the Department of Energy which are published in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics* and the *Digest of Energy Statistics*, as the latter are based on reports received directly from the oil industry and are unadjusted. Over longer periods the differences between the two sources are largely resolved.

For imports, the average value of crude oil per ton has been obtained by dividing the value of crude oil imports by the tonnage and will reflect not only changes in price but also changes in the commodity mix of imports due, for example, to differing qualities of crude oil.

The figures of value of crude oil exports have been seasonally adjusted with the same seasonal and length of month factors as have been used for the Fuels total in table 5. These figures include oil which has been re-exported.

9 Unit value and volume indices. A brief description of the way in which the index numbers on a balance of payments basis are cal-

TABLE 7 Exports: unit value indices Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Not seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
1975	198.3	178	198	439	193	196	200	189	209	194	177	180
1975 4th quarter	210.1	187	202	474	205	213	217	203	211	202	180	192
1976 1st quarter	218.9	192	211	496	214	224	231	210	219	206	185	199
2nd quarter	234.3	211	229	530	229	242	248	230	232	216	196	213
3rd quarter p	247.4	220	249	553	242	254	258	246	245	233	207	226
1976 July	242.6	217	247	545	237	248	252	240	240	228	204	222
August r	247.0	221	249	548	243	255	259	247	247	233	208	227
September p	251.7	222	253	565	246	259	264	251	250	237	209	230
Percentage change 3rd quarter on 2nd quarter	+5½	+4	+8½	+4	+6	+5	+4½	+7	+6	+8	+6	+6

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

TABLE 8 Imports: commodity classes¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million cif

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures						
									Machinery and transport equipment†					
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery†	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Other	Miscellaneous
1975	24,163	4,346	4,310	8,364	2,214	1,409	4,741	6,655	4,782	3,603	883	297	1,872	489
1975 4th quarter	6,462	1,208	1,190	2,203	568	394	1,242	1,757	1,246	955	234	60	511	106
1976 1st quarter	6,612	1,020	1,303	2,402	676	430	1,295	1,818	1,265	901	264	95	553	92
2nd quarter	7,746	1,272	1,354	2,784	780	489	1,515	2,178	1,592	1,179	332	99	586	119
3rd quarter p	8,090	1,257	1,506	2,894	858	518	1,518	2,348	1,724	1,254	399	67	624	114
1976 July	2,701	396	523	934	280	167	487	829	627	491	117	27	201	38
August r	2,577	407	463	935	278	164	492	729	522	369	125	18	207	37
September p	2,812	453	520	1,025	299	187	539	790	574	393	157	21	215	39
Percentage change 3rd quarter on 2nd quarter	+4½	−1	+11	+4	+10	+6	—	+8	+8½	+6½	+20	−33	+6½	−4

* Not seasonally adjusted. † Includes North Sea production installations. ¶See Note 2. r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

culated was published in the article giving unit value and volume index numbers for March 1971 in *Trade and Industry* of 26 May 1971. An article was published in *Trade and Industry* on 11 October 1973 introducing the series of import and export unit value and volume indices with 1970 = 100. The purpose of the index numbers is to measure the changes in price and volume of our imports and exports.

Index numbers can be constructed in various ways, and the series used here are of the fixed base type. Thus, the unit value indices measure changes in 'price' of a fixed selection of trade headings (although in practice it is not specific prices which are measured but the average price of all the varying transactions taking place each month in the selected headings, reflecting different kinds of goods

TABLE 9 Imports: areas¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values

£ million cif

	Total	Developed countries				Developing countries		Centrally planned economies
		EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Oil exporting countries	Other	
1975	24,163	8,805	3,566	3,208	1,855	3,274	2,666	753
1975 4th quarter	6,462	2,423	941	789	491	825	724	213
1976 1st quarter	6,612	2,423	978	871	414	941	760	276
2nd quarter	7,746	2,902	1,095	1,051	498	964	889	310
3rd quarter p	8,090	2,807	1,221	1,132	582	1,196	912	274
1976 July	2,701	885	465	379	176	417	309	86
August r	2,577	900	356	349	216	379	294	98
September p	2,812	1,022	400	404	191	400	308	90
Percentage change 3rd quarter on 2nd quarter	+4½	−3	+11	+7½	+17	+24	+2½	−12

¶ See Note 2. r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

TABLE 10 Imports: volume indices
Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
				Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Machinery and transport equipment**			Other
									Total	Machinery**	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	
Weights	1,000	227	105	427	151	60	216	229	166	133	33	63
1975	124.4	98	89	113	78	122	135	183	182	176	203	186
1975 4th quarter	127.6	107	90	116	78	133	138	182	179	177	190	188
1976 1st quarter	125.7	91	90	123	92	143	140	183	177	164	224	198
2nd quarter	136.0	104	88	129	96	149	146	197	199	190	250	190
3rd quarter p	136.4	104	90	127	97	153	140	204	208	195	258	193
1976 July	136.8	99	95	125	97	152	136	210	219	217	242	187
August r	130.7	104	83	123	94	142	138	194	194	179	240	194
September p	141.8	110	91	133	100	166	147	208	212	188	293	197
Percentage change 3rd quarter on 3rd quarter	+½	—	+2½	−1½	+1½	+2½	−4	+4	+4½	+2½	+3	+1½

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates. ** Includes North Sea production installations.

TABLE 11 Imports: unit value indices
Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Not seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
				Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Machinery and transport equipment			Other
									Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	
1975	235.9	219	535	199	215	229	180	188	183	181	194	200
1975 4th quarter	249.5	223	591	206	222	234	187	205	199	197	210	220
1976 1st quarter	258.8	228	636	210	226	239	190	213	207	204	221	226
2nd quarter	281.4	243	686	230	248	262	210	234	230	225	251	242
3rd quarter p	296.4	246	728	247	266	274	226	246	242	237	262	258
1976 July	293.3	244	721	244	263	272	224	243	239	236	254	253
August r	295.0	243	725	246	265	273	225	246	242	238	260	255
September p	300.8	251	738	250	271	276	228	249	244	237	272	265
Percentage change 3rd quarter on 2nd quarter	+5½	+1	+6	+7	+7½	+4½	+7½	+5½	+5	+5	+4½	+6½

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

covered by each heading and different markets or courses of supply).

Correspondingly, the volume indices measure, for the same selection of trade headings, what the change in the value of trade would be assuming no changes in the prices charged from those in the base year. Because the indices are base weighted, they do not take account of the changes in the pattern of trade since the base year, and consequently their product does not precisely account for the change in the value of trade expressed as an index. In practice, though, since the composition of trade changes little between consecutive months, the product of the changes in the indices will often approximate to the change in the value of trade between one month and the next. A full methodological article about the 1970-based series of indices was published in the April 1975 issue of *Economic Trends*. Adjustments have been made to the import volume index to include North Sea oil production installations, however no changes have been made to the base-weighted unit value index.

10 Definition of areas. the areas used in tables 4 and 9 of this article comprise the following countries:

EEC – West Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Italy, Denmark and Irish Republic.
Rest of Western Europe – Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, Leichtenstein, Portugal, Austria, Andorra, Vatican City, Greece, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Spain, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Malta, Continental Shelf (Foreign Part).

TABLE 12 Trade in petroleum and petroleum products¶ On a Balance of Payments basis (Division 33 of SITC(R))

Seasonally adjusted

	Balance of Visible trade	Imports					Exports		
		Total	Crude oil			Rest of Division 33	Total	Crude oil	Rest of Division 33
	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	million fob	Average value per ton £ fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob
1974	−3,422	4,118	3,347	109.1	30.7	771	696	29	667
1975	−3,114	3,835	3,071	85.8	35.8	764	721	30	691
1974 1st quarter	−730	886	705	28.4	25.0	161	136	3	133
2nd quarter	−889	1,091	903	28.2	32.1	188	202	12	190
3rd quarter	−897	1,080	869	26.4	33.1	211	183	6	177
4th quarter	−906	1,081	870	26.1	33.5	211	175	8	167
1975 1st quarter	−766	943	753	22.1	34.2	190	177	7	170
2nd quarter	−689	843	698	20.7	33.7	145	154	1	153
3rd quarter	−795	985	806	22.7	35.6	179	190	6	184
4th quarter	−864	1,064	814	20.3	40.2	250	200	16	184
1976 1st quarter	−959	1,180	931	21.5	43.4	249	221	18	203
2nd quarter	−968	1,225	962	20.7	46.5	263	257	24	233
3rd quarter p	−1,059	1,370	1,089	22.2	49.1	281	311	43	268
July	−370	475	369	7.6	48.7	106	105	9	96
Aug	−320	419	337	6.8	49.4	82	99	16	83
September p	−369	476	383	7.8	49.2	93	107	18	89
Percentage change 3rd quarter on 2nd quarter		+12	+13	+7	+5½	+6½	+21	+78	+15

p Provisional estimates r Revised estimates. ¶ See note 8.

TABLE 13 Derivation of the visible trade figures on a balance of payments basis

£ million

	Exports				Imports				
	Recorded	Seasonally adjusted†			Recorded	Seasonally adjusted†			
	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (fob)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (fob)	Coverage adjustments	Balance of Payments basis (fob)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (cif)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (cif)	Adjustments to BOP basis: Valuation adjustments	Adjustments to BOP basis: Coverage adjustments	Balance of Payments basis (fob)
1974	16,600	16,600	−701	15,899	23,234	23,234	−1,643	−472	21,119
1975	19,929	19,929	−1,161	18,768	24,163	24,163	−1,604	−587	21,972
1974 1st quarter	3,617	3,637	−156	3,481	5,375	5,269	−415	−85	4,769
2nd quarter	4,221	4,145	−137	4,008	6,001	5,936	−419	−154	5,363
3rd quarter	4,238	4,430	−207	4,223	5,795	5,992	−413	−115	5,465
4th quarter	4,524	4,388	−201	4,187	6,063	6,036	−396	−118	5,522
1975 1st quarter	4,595	4,781	−250	4,531	5,882	5,879	−374	−122	5,383
2nd quarter	4,943	4,744	−265	4,479	5,844	5,632	−385	−87	5,160
3rd quarter	4,798	4,940	−307	4,632	6,010	6,191	−415	−155	5,621
4th quarter	5,593	5,464	−338	5,126	6,427	6,462	−430	−223	5,808
1976 1st quarter	5,818	5,775	−355	5,420	6,820	6,612	−433	−286	5,893
2nd quarter	6,393	6,337	−345	5,992	7,776	7,746	−505	−209	7,032
3rd quarter p	6,281	6,489	−355	6,134	7,833	8,090	−547	−225	7,319
1976 April	2,029	2,039	−117	1,922	2,531	2,501	−158	−107	2,237
May	2,070	2,133	−124	2,009	2,442	2,577	−166	−28	2,383
June	2,294	2,165	−105	2,061	2,802	2,668	−182	−74	2,412
July	2,110	2,062	−107	1,955	2,725	2,701	−183	−37	2,482
Aug	1,968	2,157	−118	2,039	2,377	2,577	−171	−74	2,332
September p	2,203	2,270	−130	2,140	2,731	2,812	−193	−114	2,505
Percentage change 3rd quarter on 2nd quarter	−2	+2½		+2½	+½	+4½			+4

† Components and totals are rounded independently. p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

North America – USA, Canada, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Greenland
Other Developed Countries – Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Africa.
Centrally Planned Economies – Soviet Union, Poland, East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, China, North Korea, North Vietnam and Outer Mongolia.
Oil Exporting Countries – Abu Dhabi, Algeria, Bahrein, Brunei, Dubai, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sharjah etc., Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

Overseas trade statistics
Detailed particulars of United Kingdom imports and exports for September with cumulative totals will be published on 27 October* and further analysis of the figures will be found in tables 125 to 143 in the Monthly Digest for October†, due to be published in the second week of November.

Telephone inquiries concerning this article should be referred to: 01-215 3131 – value data and 01-215 3466 – indices.

* *Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom*, published by HMSO, price £4.75 (Annual subscription £64.44).
† *Monthly Digest of Statistics*, published by HMSO, price £1.45 (Annual subscription including supplement of definitions and postage £21.28).

Export pictures

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story, with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news. Send your news and photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

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Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 15 October 1976.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Carry On England	BR/E 38792/17/10/81	89	13 October	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd	Peter Rogers Productions Ltd and GT Productions Ltd
John and the Magic Music Man	BR/E 38797/17/10/81	20	15 October	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd	R.S.T.C. Rosc Ltd
Movietone News 2471	BR/E 38637/17/10/81	8	15 October	British Movietonews Ltd	British Movietonews Ltd
			COMMUNITY		
Lina Braake	EC/38794/17/10/81	85	13 October	Cinegate Ltd	Bernhard Sinkel Filmproduktion, Munich
			FOREIGN		
The Message	F 38793	208	13 October	Tarik Film Distributors Ltd	Filmco International Productions Inc, Beirut
Werewolf Of Washington	F 38795	90	13 October	Marron Films Ltd	Millco Productions, New York
Radio One On The Road	F 38796	35	14 October	GTO Films (Distributions) Ltd	Valkyrie Video Film Enterprises Ltd, London

AMENDMENT TO THE REGISTER
The registration number of the film 'Aggression', registered on 1 October 1976, has been amended to EC/38784/3/10/81 and the maker's name to read SNEG Films de la Seine and Films du Jeudi, Paris, and Primex Italiana, Rome.

Trends in invisibles

The net surplus on invisibles in 1975, at £1,531 million, was 18 per cent lower than the surplus of £1,873 million recorded in 1974. These figures, which incorporate some revisions to previous estimates, were given in the *UK Balance of Payments 1965-75*, published last month.

The sea transport account showed a small net surplus in 1975 compared with a large deficit in 1974. This, combined with a large increase in the net surplus on travel and smaller increases in the net surplus on other services and civil aviation, resulted in an increase of £244 million in the net surplus of private and public corporations' services, which more than offset the increase of £87 million in the net deficit on government services. The net surplus for 1975 on interest, profits and dividends fell by £443 million compared with 1974, whilst the net deficit on government transfer payments was £59 million higher and that on private transfers virtually unchanged.

In the first half of 1976 the net surplus on invisibles of £921 million was well above the figure of £715 million for the first half of 1975. A rise in the net surplus on private and public corporations services and on net earnings in the form of interest, profits and dividends both contributed to the increase in the net surplus on invisibles. The net deficits on government transfers and government services both deteriorated whilst that on private transfers remained almost unchanged.

Sea transport

The provisional results of the 1975, sample, Invisible Exports Inquiry conducted by the General Council of British Shipping have indicated that there was a small surplus on the sea transport account for that year, the first since 1968. There have been revisions to the figures for 1973 and 1974 in the light of more complete information becoming available from the 1974, full, quadrennial Invisible Export Inquiry.

The world economic recession has caused sharp changes to the general trading conditions of the world merchant fleet. The impact of the continuing reduced demand for oil has not only meant that freight and charter rates for tankers have remained at a low level but also that the substantial volume of combination tonnage, able to carry both bulk cargoes and oil, has been forced on to the dry cargo market. There has therefore been over-capacity in this sector, and this, coupled with the relative lack of business generally in the bulk trades, has forced down the rates in these markets too.

The accompanying table shows the earnings and disbursements in the sea transport account broken down into those earned and incurred by ships owned and chartered by UK operators and those operated by overseas owners. The net contribution of UK owned ships in 1975, at £831 million, was about the same as in 1974. This was due to a reduction in the rate of increase in earnings, brought about particularly by a reduction in the earnings of both dry cargo and tanker cross-trades, being matched by similar factors influencing disbursements abroad. Net debits for ships chartered by UK operators were, at £326 million, again at a similar level to the previous year. The earnings of chartered-in ships decreased by 18 per cent, a reflection of the loss in cross-trade earnings, but this was offset by a 13 per cent reduction in payments, a result of substantially lower charter payments.

However, the main factor behind the sudden improvement of the net position in the 1975 account stems from the 20 per cent decrease in the net payments to overseas operators. Earnings from overseas operators, as a result of their disbursements in the UK, rose by nearly 22 per cent in 1975, but payments to such operators, which are largely incurred in the carriage of UK imports, fell by 8 per cent. This was a direct result of a lower level of total freight payments for carrying UK imports combined with a larger share being taken by UK operators.

The net surplus on the sea transport account was £30 million less in the first half of 1976 compared with 1975. Tanker and bulk carrier rates have remained at a low level but disbursement costs overseas have continued to rise. UK imports have also increased and thus payments to overseas operators for the carriage of imports have grown.

SEA TRANSPORT — £ million

	Year	Credits	Debits	Balance
Ships owned by UK operators	1972	861	428	+433
	1973	1,096	493	+603
	1974	1,577	745	+832
	1975	1,628	797	+831
Ships on charter to UK operators	1972	552	757	−205
	1973	725	945	−220
	1974	792	1,115	−323
	1975	648	974	−326
Overseas operators	1972	197	502	−305
	1973	237	721	−484
	1974	306	920	−614
	1975	372	865	−493
Total	1972	1,610	1,687	−77
	1973	2,058	2,159	−101
	1974	2,675	2,780	−105
	1975	2,648	2,636	+12

Civil aviation

The net surplus on the civil aviation account in 1975, at £110 million was £20 million higher than in 1974. Results for the first half of 1976 indicate that the net surplus was £25 million more than that for the first half of 1975.

UK airlines earnings in foreign currency in 1975, at £559 million were 24 per cent higher than in 1974. Just over three-quarters of this revenue came from the carriage of overseas residents. Earnings from freight on exports rose by £12 million to £83 million in 1975 and other earnings rose by £5 million to £40 million. Expenditure overseas by UK airlines increased by 20 per cent between 1974 and 1975 to £347 million, and the resulting net balance for UK airlines was, at £212 million, 32 per cent higher than in 1974.

The growth of 26 per cent in payments made to overseas airlines by UK residents in 1975 was similar to that in 1974 and such payments stood at £302 million in 1975, compared with £239 million in 1974. Overseas airlines' expenditure in the UK rose by 19 per cent to £200 million in 1975, and the resultant net earnings of overseas airlines from UK residents was, at £102 million, 44 per cent higher than in 1974.

CIVIL AVIATION — £ million

	1972	1973	1974	1975
UK Airlines:				
Earnings overseas	304	358	451	559
Expenditure overseas	183	210	290	347
Net balance	+121	+148	+161	+212
Overseas Airlines:				
Earnings in UK	150	186	239	302
Expenditure in UK	106	122	168	200
Net Balance	−44	−64	−71	−102
Total balance	+77	+84	+90	+110

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INVISIBLES

£ million

	1972	1973	1974	1975	1975† 1st qtr.	1975† 2nd qtr.	1975† 3rd qtr.	1975† 4th qtr.	1976† 1st qtr.	1976† 2nd qtr.
CREDITS										
Private § services:										
Sea transport:										
Freight and fares	1,222	1,539	1,856	1,729						
• Charter receipts	191	282	513	547						
Disbursements of overseas shipping	197	237	306	372						
Total	1,610	2,058	2,675	2,648	638	667	670	673	702	752
Civil aviation:										
Fares, freights, etc.	304	358	451	559						
Disbursements of overseas airlines	106	122	168	200						
Total	410	480	619	759	185	176	187	211	224	250
Travel	546	681	837	1,114	256	268	304	286	317	367
Other services:										
Financial and allied	449	512	645	742						
Films and television	32	28	26	37						
Royalties, etc.	166	201	246	} 1,902						
Miscellaneous	852	1,076	1,349							
Total	1,499	1,817	2,266	2,681	617	658	688	718	752	816
Total private § services	4,065	5,036	6,397	7,202	1,696	1,769	1,849	1,888	1,995	2,185
Interest, profits and dividends‡:										
Direct investment	915	1,462	1,512	1,609	389	393	407	420	409	430
Portfolio investment	164	192	232	221	54	54	55	58	57	56
Oil and other	662	1,244	1,433	1,125	291	271	257	306	370	361
Total	1,741	2,898	3,177	2,955	734	718	719	784	836	847
Transfers:										
Private	231	295	355	395	95	100	100	100	105	105
Government	—	63	130	363	106	78	93	86	59	77
Government services	72	80	94	123	28	36	28	31	36	31
Total credits	6,109	8,372	10,153	11,038	2,659	2,701	2,789	2,889	3,031	3,245
DEBITS										
Private § services:										
Sea transport:										
Freight and fares	502	721	920	865						
Charter payments	628	778	799	667						
Disbursements abroad	557	660	1,061	1,104						
Total	1,687	2,159	2,780	2,636	622	651	679	684	688	764
Civil aviation:										
Freight, fares, etc.	150	186	239	302						
Disbursements abroad	183	210	290	347						
Total	333	396	529	649	158	156	164	171	179	223
Travel:	527	682	683	875	203	213	219	240	234	252
Other services:										
Films and television	21	25	27	34						
Royalties, etc.	138	160	199	} 1,313						
Miscellaneous	431	511	728							
Total	590	696	954	1,347	319	334	336	358	372	372
Total private § services	3,137	3,933	4,946	5,507	1,302	1,354	1,398	1,453	1,473	1,611
Interest, profits and dividends‡:										
Direct investment	523	654	566	593	150	155	133	155	182	207
Portfolio investment	158	186	236	289	66	74	75	74	80	91
Oil and other	509	675	983	1,124	302	307	251	264	286	256
Total	1,190	1,515	1,785	2,006	518	536	459	493	548	554
Transfers:										
Private	288	386	446	483	105	130	120	128	139	114
Government	210	422	450	742	157	174	182	229	216	244
Government services	428	518	653	769	177	192	202	198	221	235
Total debits	5,253	6,774	8,280	9,507	2,259	2,386	2,361	2,501	2,697	2,758
NET BALANCES										
Private § services:	+928	+1,103	+1,451	+1,695	+394	+415	+451	+435	+522	+574
Interest, profits and dividends	+551	+1,383	+1,392	+949	+216	+182	+260	+291	+288	+293
Private transfers	−57	−91	−91	−88	−10	−30	−20	−28	−34	−9
Government transfers	−210	−359	−320	−379	−51	−96	−89	−143	−157	−167
Government services	−356	−438	−559	−646	−149	−156	−174	−167	−185	−204
Net invisible balance	+856	+1,598	+1,873	+1,531	+400	+315	+428	+388	+434	+487

INVISIBLES *(continued)*

£ million

‡ An alternative breakdown is:	1972	1973	1974	1975	1975†				1976†	
					1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.
Credits:										
Private sector	1,562	2,710	2,933	2,685	668	636	662	719	764	786
Public sector	179	188	244	270	66	82	57	65	72	61
Debits:										
Private sector	870	1,119	1,178	1,191	327	327	251	286	331	320
Public sector	320	396	607	815	191	209	208	207	217	234
Net balance:										
Private sector	+692	+1,591	+1,755	+1,494	+341	+309	+411	+433	+433	+466
Public sector	−141	−208	−363	−545	−125	−127	−151	−142	−145	−173

† Seasonally adjusted. § Including public corporations.

Travel

The surplus on the travel account rose from £154 million in 1974 to £239 million in 1975. This increase has continued in 1976, and in the first six months of the year the surplus was £198 million compared with £108 million in the same period of 1975.

The increase in earnings from overseas visitors has been brought about both by an increase in their numbers and by increased expenditure per visit, each of these to some extent encouraged by the relative attractiveness of sterling.

Expenditure abroad by UK residents has also risen, but at a much slower rate, the number of UK visits abroad in the first half of 1976 being similar to those in the first half of 1975.

TRAVEL

£ million

	1972	1973	1974	1975
Credits				
Visitors from:				
Western Europe: EEC countries	146	199	240	319
Western Europe: non-EEC countries	64	82	113	152
North America	188	205	215	267
Other countries	148	195	269	376
Total Credits	546	681	837	1,114
Debits				
Visits to:				
Western Europe: EEC countries	207	255	268	333
Western Europe: non-EEC countries	225	310	278	355
North America	32	42	49	70
Other countries	63	75	88	117
Total Debits	527	682	683	875
Balance	+19	−1	+154	+239

Other services

The category 'Other Services' includes a wide-ranging group of items including financial and technical services, commissions, royalties, construction work overseas, etc.

Credits rose by 18 per cent between 1974 and 1975, a slower rate of growth than between 1973 and 1974. The rise in debits of 41 per cent was higher than in previous years, but the net surplus of credits over debits rose slightly by £22 million to £1,334 million. The rise in credits continued into 1976 with a rise of 23 per cent between the first half of 1975 and the first half of 1976, and as debits rose by only 14 per cent during the same period, the net surplus in the first half of 1976 was 32 per cent higher than in the first half of 1975. A full analysis of the components of 'other services' is given in table 12 of the *UK Balance of Payments 1965-75.*

One of the most buoyant sectors within 'Other Services' has been the earnings on financial services. Details of the four main classes of financial and allied services are shown in the accompanying table.

OTHER SERVICES

£ million

Financial and allied services	1972	1973	1974	1975
Insurance	235	228	252	309
Banking	78	92	109	127
Merchanting	57	85	108	90
Brokerage, etc.	79	107	176	216
Total	449	512	645	742

Earnings of all classes increased except for a fall of £18 million on merchanting earnings. The insurance figures in 'Other Services' cover only business written within the UK and do not cover all the overseas earnings of insurers, part of which (the earnings of overseas branches and subsidiary companies of UK insurance companies and receipts of interest and dividends by the Corporation of Lloyds and by companies on holdings of foreign securities) appear under 'Interest, profits and dividends'. This is also true of the overseas earnings of banks and in Annex 4 of the *UK Balance of Payments 1965-75* the total overseas earnings of financial institutions are brought together. The aggregated figures for insurance are shown below:

OVERSEAS EARNINGS OF UK INSURERS

£ million

	1972	1973	1974	1975
Companies	160	157	148	158
Lloyds	149	147	160	190
Brokers	58	60	76	104
Total	367	364	384	452

Other notable changes within 'Other Services' between 1974 and 1975 were the rise in the earnings on construction work abroad by 40 per cent to £295 million and the continuing fast growing expenditure on services associated with UK Continental Shelf activities.

Interest, profits and dividends

The net surplus on earnings from interest, profits and dividends fell to £949 million in 1975, following a small rise between 1973 and 1974. The fall was reversed in the first half of 1976 when the net surplus was £581 million compared with £398 million in the first half of 1975.

Following an increase of 3 per cent between 1973 and 1974, earnings on direct investment abroad (excluding oil) are estimated to have risen by 6 per cent between 1974 and 1975, and have continued to increase in the first half of 1976, being some 7 per cent higher than in the first half of 1975.

Compared with a fall of 13 per cent between 1973 and 1974, earnings on foreign direct investments in the UK (excluding oil and insurance) increased by 5 per cent between 1974 and 1975. Such earnings continued to rise in the first half of 1976, being some 28 per cent higher than those in the first half of 1975, partly due to an improvement in the profitability of the UK motor industry.

The net deficit from earnings on portfolio investments was £68 million in 1975 compared with a deficit of only £4 million in 1974. Credits fell by £11 million and debits rose by £53 million over 1974 figures. This net deficit has continued to grow in 1976 being £26 million higher in the first half of the year than in the first half of 1975. Other credits (which include the earnings of UK oil companies, UK banks, their lending and borrowing in overseas currencies, receipts of interest on inter-governmental loans, trade credit, etc.) fell by 21 per cent between 1974 and 1975 compared with a rise of 15 per cent between 1973 and 1974. In the first half of 1976, however, these credits have risen sharply being 30 per cent higher than in the first half of 1975.

Other debits rose by 14 per cent between 1974 and 1975. Total other debits were 11 per cent lower in the first half of 1976 compared with the first half of 1975.

Dividing interest, profits and dividends between private and public sector transactions, as shown in the footnote to the accompanying table it can be seen that the net public sector deficit rose from £363 million to £545 million between 1974 and 1975 and has continued to rise during the first half of 1976, being some £66 million higher than in the first half of 1975. At the same time, the net private sector surplus fell in 1975 to £1,494 million but has begun to rise sharply in the first half of 1976, being £249 million higher than in the first half of 1975.

Inquiries: 01-215 5176.

Wholesale price indices in September

Output prices

The provisional price index for the home sales of manufactured products increased by 1¼ per cent in September to 226.2 (1970 = 100).

September's rise of 3¼ per cent in the provisional price index for the food manufacturing sector was the largest monthly increase since January 1975. Most products showed price increases with the higher price for milk making the largest contribution.

The index for manufactured products other than food, drink and tobacco was 1 per cent higher as a result of increases spread across all sectors. This index rose 4¼ per cent in the third quarter of 1976 compared with 3¾ per cent in the same period last year.

Price rises for many packaging products of paper, board and associated materials were mainly responsible for an increase of 2½ per cent in the index for the paper industries. The index for this sector of industry showed the steepest rise, of 6½ per cent, during the third quarter of 1976.

The indices for made-up clothing and clothing and footwear rose by 2 per cent and 1¾ per cent respectively with higher prices for men's and boys' tailored outerwear and overalls and men's shirts making the major contribution. These are the sharpest monthly increases for these indices since January.

Despite little change in September the index for the steel industries rose by 6½ per cent in the third quarter of 1976. The index for metal manufacturing rose by 6 per cent in this period with wrought aluminium also showing sharp price increases, but the prices for wrought copper and brass have fallen back towards their levels at the start of the period.

The indices for most other sectors of industry rose by about 1 per cent in September.

The change in the index for all manufactured products measured over a 12-month period rose again, from 15½ per cent for August to 16 per cent for September.

Input prices

The provisional price index for materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry rose by 3¼ per cent to 314.0.

Price increases for most home-produced and imported materials were responsible for the rise of 6 per cent in the index for materials purchased by the food manufacturing industries. The higher price of milk for liquid consumption and for manufacturing was the most significant item.

The index for materials purchased by manufacturing industry other than the food, drink and tobacco industries rose by 2¾ per cent in September. This increase was due to higher prices for many imports, particularly crude oil, partly reflecting the renewed depreciation of the pound against major foreign currencies in the second half of the month. The full effect of the latest depreciation will be shown in the index for October.

Price indices for materials and fuel purchased by many sectors of industry showed smaller rises than the increase of 2½ per cent in the index of materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco industries. This reflects the lower rate of price increases for home-produced materials purchased by individual sectors of industry from other manufacturing sectors compared with the price increases for imported materials which have a higher weight in the indices for the whole of manufacturing industry.

The index for the paper industries showed a rise of 2¾ per cent in September with higher prices for imported paper and imported woodpulp making the largest contributions. Further price increases for raw wool made the most significant contribution to a similar increase in the index for the textiles industry. This index rose by 6¼ per cent in the latest quarter following a rise of 10¾ per cent in the previous three months.

New information of price rises for iron ore was responsible for revised figures for July and August in the index for the steel industries. This index shows an increase of 2¾ per cent in the third quarter of 1976.

A revised estimate of the price increase for imported softwood and plywood in August has caused revisions in the indices for the timber industries and construction and house building materials. The rise of 7 per cent in the third quarter of 1976 in the index for the timber industries follows an increase of 12½ per cent in the second quarter of the year.

The indices for most other broad sectors of industry showed increases of less than 1½ per cent in September contributing to rises in the third quarter of between 4 per cent and 5 per cent.

United Kingdom Mineral Statistics 1975

This review of all mineral statistics relating to the United Kingdom, is the third in a series produced annually by the Institute of Geological Sciences. It is an attempt to encompass in one source all the statistical information on production, trade and consumption of minerals and their derivatives collected by various government departments, and industrial and trade organisations. Data for England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and individual counties are featured, and the statistics – in metric units throughout – are illustrated by numerous diagrams.

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TABLE 1 Price index numbers of materials purchased

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1975		1976			1975	1976							
		3rd qtr	4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr p	Sept	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug p	Sept p
Orders III to XIX	Materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry:	239.3	256.1	266.5	292.6	306.6	243.2	263.9	274.2	286.3	292.0	299.6	302.0	303.9	314.0
	Materials†	243.4	261.4	272.5	299.2	314.5	247.7	269.9	280.4	292.2	298.5	306.8	309.3	311.5	322.7
	Coal (except for carbonising), gas and electricity	200.5	205.5	210.1	230.6	232.0	200.3	207.5	215.8	230.4	230.6	230.9	232.0	232.0	232.0
Orders IV to XIX	Materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry, other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	255.4	269.7	280.3	313.5	328.2	257.1	276.8	290.2	305.2	313.1	322.1	324.6	325.9	334.0
	Materials†	263.3	278.9	290.3	325.3	341.9	265.2	286.7	300.8	315.9	324.8	335.1	337.9	339.2	348.6
Order III	Materials and fuel purchased by the food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	206.2	224.8	235.4	246.8	257.3	212.6	234.4	238.3	245.3	246.0	249.1	251.4	255.0	265.4
	Materials and fuels purchased by selected broad sectors of industry														
211 to 229	Food manufacturing industries	205.2	227.0	237.0	246.5	258.3	213.6	236.1	239.6	244.5	245.4	249.6	251.7	254.2	269.1
	Materials†	204.9	227.3	237.3	246.5	258.5	213.7	236.5	239.7	244.5	245.3	249.6	251.7	254.2	269.6
	Fuel	210.9	217.8	230.9	248.0	254.0	210.8	229.3	234.4	246.6	248.6	248.7	251.7	255.1	255.1
211 to 229 (excluding MLH 219)	Food manufacturing industries (excluding animal and poultry foods)	202.8	225.6	235.8	243.3	254.4	210.7	235.2	238.0	241.9	242.1	245.8	247.5	250.5	265.2
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	241.0	250.8	258.7	276.5	289.6	243.2	257.1	263.4	272.3	276.3	280.9	286.0	288.1	294.6
311 and 312	Steel industries	230.6	237.3	247.0	281.6	289.8	231.4	243.9	255.8	278.8	282.3	283.6	287.2p	290.7	291.4
321 to 323	Non-ferrous metals industry	145.9	149.1	157.3	189.3	202.0	146.8	154.7	164.8	183.3	189.7	194.9	203.3	200.1	202.7
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering industries	211.4	217.2	226.6	245.1	260.4	212.2	226.3	230.4	240.6	245.3	249.4	257.7	260.8	262.6
Order IX	Electrical engineering industries	182.6	187.0	196.4	218.5	231.3	183.9	195.3	201.5	212.8	218.5	224.1	230.2	231.3	232.3
Order X	Shipbuilding and marine engineering industries	209.7	213.8	222.3	238.5	252.7	210.7	222.5	225.6	234.9	239.0	241.5	249.8	253.4	255.0
Order XII	Metal goods industries	224.6	227.3	234.4	258.3	271.8	223.2	233.6	239.8	253.4	258.1	263.3	269.3	272.0	274.0
Order XIII	Textile industries	204.0	214.9	232.4	255.9	273.7	205.7	231.0	238.5	248.3	255.0	264.3	270.3	273.2	280.6
Order XV	Clothing and footwear industries	184.7	189.4	197.4	209.1	218.5	186.2	197.7	200.0	205.6	209.1	212.6	216.4	218.1	221.1
461, 464 and 469	Bricks, cement, etc., industries	225.1	231.7	245.1	259.0	271.0	226.3	244.4	250.2	255.2	258.9	262.9	267.7	271.7	273.5
462 and 463	Pottery and glass industries	216.0	226.3	237.8	248.5	259.5	218.1	237.7	240.7	246.2	248.7	250.5	256.0	259.7	262.8
Order XVII	Timber industries	217.0	220.2	235.2	259.7	285.6	217.4	235.1	241.4	247.5	259.7	271.8	279.0	287.2	290.6
481 to 484	Paper industries	243.5	248.9	253.5	273.7	285.9	243.7	251.4	258.4	267.0	275.0	279.1	281.8	284.1	291.8
Order XX	Construction materials	209.5	215.4	227.2	242.5	257.8	211.6	227.8	230.9	235.7	243.4	248.4	253.9	258.9	260.7
Part of Order XX	House building materials	211.2	217.2	229.2	244.7	261.4	213.8	229.7	233.0	237.4	245.9	250.9	256.9	262.5	264.7

† Includes crude oil and coal for carbonising.

Notes on wholesale price indices

1 Detailed notes on index numbers of wholesale prices were last shown in *Trade and Industry* of 9 April 1976.

2 The index numbers are constructed on a net sector basis. This is to say, the price movements used to compile the index for a particular sector of industry are only those relating to transactions between the sector and other sectors. Transactions between undertakings in the same sector are excluded. Thus index numbers for the whole of manufacturing industry are not weighted averages of sector index numbers.

3 All the index numbers are compiled exclusive of value added tax and (before its abolition) of purchase tax. Revenue duties (on cigarettes and manufactured tobacco, alcoholic liquor, matches and mechanical lighters) are included. The duty on hydrocarbon oils is excluded from output price series that cover these products (unless specifically noted to the contrary) but is included in series for materials and fuel purchased by sectors of industry.

4 Firm and provisional indices, at all levels of aggregation, include imputation for items for which there is no current price information. Additional provisional figures will be published for those indices where there are insufficient returns to allow accurate imputation.

5 Revisions to firm index numbers will only be published if the revised indices are significantly different. These revisions will only be notified in the full version of the wholesale price index articles; ie those published in April, August and December of each year.

TABLE 1(a) Price index numbers of materials and fuel purchased by selected sectors of industry

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1975		1976			1975	1976							
		3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr	3rd qtr p	Sep	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug p	Sep p
361	Electrical machinery industry	196.7	201.5	211.5	230.9	245.0	197.9	210.8	215.9	226.0	230.7	236.0	242.9	245.5	246.8
362	Insulated wires and cables industry	139.9	143.4	152.1	179.3	191.4	142.6	150.0	158.8	172.2	179.2	186.6	193.4	191.4	189.5
364	Radio and electronic components industry	196.3	201.8	209.7	224.6	236.8	197.6	209.8	212.6	220.1	224.9	228.8	233.9	237.1	239.4
368	Domestic appliances industry	191.2	195.8	205.3	222.3	234.1	192.5	205.1	208.9	217.4	222.0	227.4	231.7	234.3	236.3
369	Electrical goods industries n.e.s.	187.7	192.6	200.7	219.6	231.3	189.1	200.3	204.7	214.5	219.8	224.4	229.5	231.2	233.2
381	Motor vehicle industry	212.3	219.1	229.6	247.4	261.4	214.2	229.2	234.0	241.8	247.5	252.9	257.7	261.7	264.8
411	Man-made fibres industry	212.1	221.7	231.1	248.1	258.5	212.7	231.0	236.1	244.2	247.5	252.5	254.3	258.1	263.2
414	Woollen and worsted industry	207.9	230.8	255.2	282.9	302.0	210.6	251.2	264.5	274.7	282.7	291.3	293.1	299.7	313.3
422/1	Household textiles and handkerchiefs industry	194.1	198.6	210.1	224.2	240.6	195.4	210.1	212.5	216.1	223.8	232.6	238.6	240.7	242.6
450	Footwear industry	184.0	189.1	198.3	214.7	221.7	185.9	199.4	200.8	211.8	213.9	218.3	220.1	221.8	223.1
481	Paper and board making industry	251.3	258.2	262.8	288.5	298.8	251.8	260.2	268.7	278.8	290.8	295.9	295.5	297.6	304.4

TABLE 2 Price index numbers of output (home sales)

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1975		1976			1975	1976							
		3rd qtr	4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr p	Sep	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug p	Sep p
Orders III to XIX	Output of manufactured products	193.4	199.1	206.9	214.4	223.1	194.9	207.3	208.6	211.5	214.8	217.0	219.8	223.3	226.2
Orders IV to XIX	Products of manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	199.1	205.4	214.5	222.0	230.7	201.0	215.0	216.6	219.3	222.4	224.2	227.5	231.2	233.5
	Output of selected broad sectors of industry														
211 to 229	Food manuracturing industries	201.3	208.0	215.2	222.2	233.7	202.1	215.3	216.6	219.3	222.4	224.8	227.9	232.8	240.5
211 to 229 (excluding MLH 219)	Food manufacturing industries (excluding animal and poultry foods)	203.0	208.2	215.5	220.5	230.2	203.5	215.6	217.0	218.7	220.5	222.3	224.4	228.9	237.2
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	192.8	198.2	206.5	213.7	221.1	194.9	207.3	208.5	211.2	213.8	216.0	218.4	221.3	223.5
Order VI	Metal manufacturing	206.0	209.5	217.7	240.6	259.1	206.9	217.8	221.1	234.4	240.5	246.8	256.3	259.6	261.3
311 and 312	Steel industries	227.8	231.0	237.3	260.3	281.8	228.2	238.2	239.4	255.3	259.3	266.4	278.4	283.3	283.6
Orders VII to XII	Engineering and allied industries	195.3	201.8	209.9	217.7	226.6	197.0	210.6	212.1	214.7	218.3	220.2	223.2	227.0	229.5
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering	202.1	209.3	218.6	226.1	235.1	204.5	219.2	220.6	223.4	226.5	228.4	233.0	235.0	237.4
Order VIII	Instrument engineering	171.2	176.2	184.9	190.9	196.6	172.5	184.2	187.0	190.4	190.8	191.5	193.7	196.9	199.1
Order IX	Electrical engineering	177.2	183.6	191.5	197.6	204.0	180.5	192.0	193.7	195.4	197.4	199.9	201.7	203.7	206.7
Order XI	Vehicles	212.9	219.9	227.7	236.8	247.9	213.6	229.5	230.0	232.1	238.3	240.0	241.7	249.3	252.6
Order XII	Metal goods industries n.e.s	200.3	207.8	215.7	227.1	238.9	201.7	215.3	218.3	223.4	227.4	230.4	235.4	239.6	241.8
Order XIII	Textile industries	180.7	185.1	193.0	201.1	209.5	182.1	193.4	195.2	197.8	201.5	204.1	207.2	209.3	212.1
Order XV	Clothing and footwear	166.0	170.7	176.6	180.3	186.2	168.1	176.0	178.3	179.1	180.4	181.3	184.3	185.6	188.8
441/449	Made-up clothing	162.4	167.1	172.6	175.9	180.1	164.7	172.1	174.5	175.2	176.2	176.3	178.3	179.1	182.8
461, 464 and 469	Bricks, cement, etc., industries	209.3	218.8	231.5	243.1	254.6	212.3	232.7	234.9	237.6	245.2	246.6	250.6	255.2	257.9
462 and 463	Pottery and glass industries	202.3	210.2	215.4	223.2	230.2	204.3	215.9	217.2	221.3	223.4	225.0	227.6	230.5	232.6
Order XVII	Timber industries	207.9	210.9	218.7	225.5	234.5	209.9	218.9	221.2	222.9	225.6	228.1	230.2	235.3	238.0
481 to 484	Paper industries	227.2	233.8	235.4	242.4	254.6	231.3	235.3	235.9	239.4	243.1	244.6	248.8	254.3	260.7
Order XX	New construction‡	228	236	238	246 p				238			246 p			

‡ Index of building costs relate to average for the quarter (*Department of Environment*)

Government Publications in Scotland

from

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 13a Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3AR

TABLE 3(a) Commodities produced in the United Kingdom (as published monthly)

1970=100

1968 SIC		1975	1976			
		Sep	Jun	Jul	Aug p	Sep p
101	Coal	301.4	350.1	350.3	350.3	350.4
102/1	Coated limestone roadstone	247.3	310.6	312.1	321.5	322.6
	Aggregates for concrete	191.7	217.0	217.4	217.2	218.2
103	Sand and gravel – ex pit or works	190.4	233.7	237.5	242.7	247.3
	Tobacco	154.4	168.9	168.9	168.9	168.9
261	Foundry coke	..	404.2	404.2	404.2	404.2
262	Motor spirit, two star (including duty)⌀	172.4	208.2	208.7	209.5	209.5
	Medium fuel oil (950 secs – including duty)⌀	294.0	346.4	358.5	374.6	374.6
	Dervy fuel (including duty)⌀	147.7	192.8	194.5	196.9	196.9
263	Lubricating oils and greases	206.3	238.0	238.0	253.2	254.7
271	General chemicals	209.0	244.5	247.7	252.1	254.8
271/1	Inorganic chemicals	209.0	238.0	241.5	242.4	243.9
271/2	Organic chemicals	229.0	266.6	270.4	278.5	283.4
272/1	Pharmaceutical chemicals	194.6	205.2	207.4	211.0	211.4
272/2	Pharmaceutical preparations	172.0	191.2	195.0	198.4	201.3
273	Toilet preparations	172.2	187.5	190.7	192.4	193.2
274	Paint	208.3	222.8	224.8	225.1	225.6
276/1	Synthetic resins and plastics materials	182.5	211.2	215.4	216.9	219.7
	Polyolefin moulding materials	191.0	231.3	238.9	239.0	241.3
	Polyvinyl chlorides	194.6	240.4	244.5	246.3	248.9
279/3	Explosives; fireworks, etc.	227.1	247.2	248.7	248.7	248.7
311/2	Uncoated steel sheets (other than stainless and electrical sheets)	201.7	276.0	276.0	276.0	276.0
	Tinplate	215.3	241.7	242.1	271.9	271.9
	Finished steel (other than sheets, tinplates, forgings and castings)	234.4	266.1	283.3	286.4	286.6
	Steel plates (non-alloy)	253.3	262.6	282.5	284.6	284.6
	Steel sheet piling	241.1	309.9	309.9	309.9	309.9
	Heavy steel bars and sections	241.2	298.5	298.5	298.5	298.5
	Light re-rolled bars and sections	230.0	264.2	294.6	297.9	297.9
	Finished stainless steels	183.9	203.3	216.7	222.2	222.2
	Steel castings	222.5	240.5	245.5	251.4	252.7
	Forgings (other than drop forgings)	263.2	337.7	340.8	352.1	358.0
312	Steel tubes – other than electric conduit tubes	250.3	285.6	297.4	301.9	302.4
313/3 and 313/4	Iron castings	239.6	271.9	277.8	283.0	283.9
	Cast and spun iron pipes and fittings	252.9	286.0	295.9	308.4	308.4
321	Wrought aluminium	179.3	218.0	222.5	230.2	246.1
	Aluminium: Rolled	173.2	207.6	213.1	226.1	245.0
	Extruded and drawn aluminium products – other than wire	172.0	214.9	222.8	235.3	254.8
	Aluminium: Castings	195.3	236.7	238.1	240.5	246.7
	Aluminium: Forgings	179.8	213.4	213.4	213.4	224.1
322	Brass ingots	120.9	172.0	174.1	169.0	169.0
331	Agricultural machinery	211.8	228.6	233.3	234.2	239.8
332	Metal-working machine tools	225.2	247.9	253.3	255.8	259.8
333	Pumps, valves, compressors, fluid power equipment	209.0	226.1	228.8	230.3	231.9
336	Construction and earth moving equipment	196.0	230.8	237.9 p	239.9	242.1
368	Domestic electrical appliances	164.0	178.2	180.6	182.5	183.7
381/1	Passenger cars‡	190.1	211.8	213.6	220.7	223.1
381/2	Commercial and public service vehicles	222.4	253.5	255.9	264.6	267.3
	Commercial vehicles not exceeding 1½ tons gross vehicle weight	220.9	255.6	258.1	267.8	268.4
	Commercial vehicles and chassis over 1½ tons gross vehicle weight	222.2	252.6	254.1	260.8	265.7
381/3	Public service vehicles	228.5	255.2	259.9	263.9	268.7
390	Engineers' cutting tools	168.1	195.2	197.5	198.9	200.9
	Engineers' cutting tools: diamond	149.7	167.3	170.0	171.2	171.2
	Engineers' cutting tools and parts: non-diamond	169.7	197.3	198.8	200.0	202.2
	Hacksaw blades	163.7	194.3	210.2	214.8	216.4
391	Hand tools and implements	215.1	237.2	246.1	250.1	259.1
392	Cutlery and tableware	195.9	222.5	223.9	229.4	231.1
399/1	Metal furniture, office and works equipment	186.7	206.4	211.7	212.3	212.9
399/12	Plumbers brassware	162.2	194.0	197.1	200.0	200.0
411	Man-made fibres production	160.7	174.3	175.5	176.6	180.0
412, 414/5 and 415	All spun man-made fibres yarns	172.9	200.7	202.6	203.0	206.3
412	Cotton yarns, cotton-spun man-made fibres yarns and mixtures of both	187.8	255.0	264.1	265.1	269.6
413	Woven cotton cloth in the loomstate	188.7	229.8	236.5	239.7	244.7
	Man-made fibres fabrics in the loomstate	200.5	210.1	213.0	213.0	218.2
414/2	Yarns of wool spun on the worsted system	195.2	231.5	233.8	247.5	253.4
417	Hosiery and other knitted goods	155.8	167.6	170.2	172.1	173.8
419	Carpets and rugs	181.7	209.6	210.7	215.3	217.6
429/1	Asbestos manufactures	180.5	200.4	205.0	205.0	207.2
431/1	Leather for footwear	164.1	205.9	205.9	205.9	209.5
450	Footwear – including rubber footwear	176.6	193.0	199.0	201.9	204.3
461/1	Refractory goods including bricks	221.7	257.0	257.6	261.2	267.4
461/2	Non-refractory goods, including building bricks	222.7	245.7	253.3	256.1	256.7
	Engineering bricks – *delivered*	246.7	280.2	283.9	283.9	289.3
463/1	Flat glass (including safety and silvered glass)	208.0	220.9	220.9	220.9	222.6
	Glazing sheet and plate glass	177.0	197.8	197.8	197.8	199.4
463/2	Glass containers	210.1	233.8	234.3	234.5	238.8
464	Cement – *delivered in bulk*	210.1	249.9	250.0	256.1	256.1
469/2	Precast concrete products	201.0	234.9	241.3	245.5	247.9
	Precast concrete pipes – *delivered*	222.0	266.5	289.2	290.4	290.4
	Precast concrete manholes – *delivered*	177.6	217.0	225.7	226.0	226.0
	Plaster – gypsum	210.5	228.1	228.1	228.1	228.1
471/1	Homegrown hardwood – sawn	223.1	239.6	240.3 p	245.1	248.5
471/2	Building joinery	233.3	262.0	267.1	274.3	279.1
472	Domestic furniture	192.7	204.0	204.2	210.2	212.2
473	Bedding, etc.	206.7	225.4	227.4	230.6	234.7

Further information

Correspondence about wholesale price index numbers should be addressed to Statistics Division 4, Room 610, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB. Telephone inquiries for price index numbers should be made to 01-215 3544 (Tables 1 and 2 indices), 3549 (engineering), 5216 (chemicals, steel, building materials, etc.), 3548 (textiles, clothing, timber, paper, etc.), 3173 (imported commodities).

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available
— nil or less than half
the final digit shown
p provisional
r revised
* five week period
ø fifty-three week period

TABLE 3(a) *(continued)*

1968 SIC		1975 Sep	1976 Jun	Jul	Aug p	Sep p
481	Paper and board	224.6	240.0	249.1	258.4	261.2
	Printings and writings – excluding newsprint	217.0	235.3	252.0	258.5	258.5
482/1	Cardboard boxes, cartons and fibreboard packing cases	232.9	244.9	246.0	249.9	263.1
483	Manufactured stationery	227.5	245.7	247.3	254.5	257.0
484/1	Wallpaper	225.1	225.1	225.1	228.8	232.1
489	General printing, bookbinding etc.	193.4	209.7	213.7	215.3	216.1
491/1	Rubber tyres and tubes	185.2	201.2	206.2	206.5	206.6
492	Linoleum and felt base	194.4	210.6	210.6	210.6	213.6
Part 399/472	Office furniture	216.2	232.9	238.2	238.7	239.2
Part 338/399/472	Office equipment and machinery	178.0	188.2	191.6	193.2	193.7

ø Index based on scheduled outer zone prices for minimum bulk loads of 500 gallon (motor spirit 1,000 gallons) exclusive of rebates. p = provisional.
‡ Inclusive of purchase tax (before its abolition). VAT and Car Tax.

TABLE 3(b) Commodities wholly or mainly imported into the United Kingdom

1970 = 100

	1975 Sep	1976 Jun	Jul	Aug p	Sep p
Hides and skins	163.4	311.1	324.2	329.8	357.3
Non-ferrous metals:					
Aluminium, virgin ingot delivered	154.8	178.2	196.0	205.8	224.7
Copper‡	98.4	148.8	156.4	146.1	143.2
Lead‡	136.4	212.9	224.5	213.0	219.1
Nickel§	171.2	228.4	230.6	229.2	229.9
Tin, ingot min. 99.75%‡	204.8	288.1	310.7	296.2	300.3
Zinc‡	281.6	344.3	352.2	336.4	334.3
Zinc§	281.4	352.3	347.6	348.0	358.8
Natural rubber	174.0	287.6	260.4	260.8	269.8
Sulphur, crude cif (for acid making)	256.3	297.1	288.1	288.1	288.1
Textiles:					
Raw cotton, all types	215.3	364.7	412.1	393.2	400.5
American types, cif Liverpool	221.3	378.9	417.4	395.7	402.1
Egyptian types, cif Liverpool	185.4	293.9	385.5	380.7	392.7
Raw wool – all types	207.5	301.2	302.8	312.1	330.9
Imported	212.3	299.8	300.2	309.2	332.3
Imported, merino	218.5	278.5	278.5	282.6	299.0
Imported, fine crossbred	206.4	296.5	296.5	307.7	334.7
Imported, medium and coarse crossbred	225.5	374.5	375.9	394.7	429.5
British types	180.9	309.1	317.8	327.9	322.7
Timber:					
Imported hardwood (ex-yard or wharf)	231.7	294.2	297.3	311.3	314.5
Imported plywood (delivered to consumers)	217.7	275.9	279.8	290.3	295.0
Imported softwood (delivered to consumers)	233.1	315.5	328.2	340.3	345.0
Woodpulp, imported	288.8	337.3	332.5	334.5	345.8

‡ LME settlement price. § Producer's price. p = provisional.

TABLE 5 United Nations index numbers of world export prices(1)

1970 = 100

	Primary commodities: Total $	£	Purchasers' currencies	Agricultural non-food $	£	Purchasers' currencies	Non-ferrous metals $	£	Purchasers' currencies	Primary commodities and non-ferrous metals(2) $	£	Purchasers' currencies
1974 1st quarter	303	318	274	232	244	209	160	168	144	284	298	256
2nd quarter	304	304	263	229	229	198	183	183	159	288	287	249
3rd quarter	309	315	274	221	225	196	142	145	126	287	292	254
4th quarter	320	330	284	212	218	186	126	130	111	294	303	258
1975 1st quarter	312	313	261	201	202	168	124	124	101	287	287	240
2nd quarter	299	309	250	198	204	166	121	125	101	275	284	230
3rd quarter	295	333	261	196	220	173	118	133	105	271	306	240
4th quarter	301	354	271	191	224	172	116	136	104	276	324	249
1976 1st quarter	304	365	277	201	242	183	120	144	109	279	336	255
2nd quarter (3)	305	405	284	207	275	193	136	181	127	282	375	263
3rd quarter (4)	*322*	*437*	*299*	*231*	*314*	*215*	*143*	*194*	*132*	*298*	*405*	*276*

(1) Published by the UN in terms of US dollars. For convenience the index numbers are also shown in sterling and in terms of purchasers' currencies by converting the dollar index at prevailing exchange rates. (2) This combined index is not published as such by the UN. (3) Provisional. (4) Projections by Department of Industry.

Metal working machine tools: sales and orders in July

Provisional monthly statistics of manufacturers' sales and orders for metal working machine tools up to and including July of this year are presented in table 1. These monthly values of sales and orders will be published in the Business Monitor PM 332, and full details of the quarterly inquiry will be published in the Business Monitor PQ 332.

The monthly estimates of sales up to and including March 1976 have been adjusted to be consistent with the more comprehensive quarterly inquiry, soon to be published, and the latest provisional estimates will be revised when the appropriate information becomes available. Net new orders and orders-on-hand are reported on the same basis of coverage and valuation as sales (see *Trade and Industry*, 9 July 1976). A monthly employment series for the industry is also provided in table 2.

Summary
Provisional monthly statistics are now available for the months up to July of this year. They show that the overall level of sales in current value terms continues to reflect a sustained rate of deliveries rather than a continued growth, following the strong upward trend apparent at the beginning of 1976. Total sales for the three months up to July at £85 million were 9 per cent higher than a year earlier. Allowing for price increases, this recent level of total sales probably represents a slight easing back in volume since the second quarter of 1975. New orders received (net of cancellations) continue to show an improvement overall, although the level of new orders received was still 15 per cent below the level of deliveries for the period, and this has again reduced the level of orders-on-hand, albeit slightly. However, should the upward trend of new orders be maintained, the present low level of orders-on-hand will soon move away from the bottom of the trough, indeed for home orders-on-hand this has begun to happen. The estimate for employment now shows that there has been practically no change over the past four months and the July level was the same as June.

TABLE 1 Metal working machine tools: orders and sales

£ million

	Sales			Orders outstanding*			New orders		
	Total	Home	Export	Total	Home	Export	Total	Home	Export
1970	218.6	137.3	81.3	159.5	86.8	72.7	213.9	130.8	83.1
1971	207.7	121.7	86.0	106.0	46.0	60.0	154.2	80.9	73.3
1972	184.7	111.6	73.1	113.3	55.7	57.6	192.0	121.3	70.7
1973	213.2	129.1	84.1	216.0	120.4	95.6	315.9	193.8	122.1
1974	254.4	149.9	104.5	324.6	175.0	149.6	363.0	204.5	158.5
1975 r	327.8	189.0	138.8	235.0	121.8	113.2	238.2	135.8	102.4
1975 1st quarter r	81.2	48.4	32.8	298.1	150.0	148.1	54.7	23.4	31.3
2nd quarter r	77.9	45.5	32.4	292.7	145.2	147.2	72.2	40.7	31.5
3rd quarter r	82.0	46.1	35.9	261.2	129.8	131.4	50.8	30.7	20.1
4th quarter r	86.7	49.0	37.7	235.0	121.8	113.2	60.5	41.0	19.5
1976 1st quarter r	91.5	50.1	41.4	205.7	98.6	107.1	62.2	26.9	35.3
2nd quarter p	83.8	47.6	36.2	195.1	98.0	97.1	73.2	47.0	26.2
1975 January r	22.6	13.3	9.3	323.0	169.3	153.7	21.0	7.6	13.4
February r	27.8	16.6	11.2	312.1	161.5	150.6	16.9	8.8	8.1
March r	30.8	18.5	12.3	298.1	150.0	148.1	16.8	7.0	9.8
April r	26.3	14.9	11.4	305.0	152.6	152.4	33.2	17.5	15.7
May r	27.1	15.5	11.6	300.8	149.1	151.7	22.9	12.0	10.9
June r	24.5	15.1	9.4	292.4	145.2	147.2	16.1	11.2	4.9
July r	26.1	14.1	12.0	282.3	140.0	142.3	16.0	8.9	7.1
August r	23.6	13.8	9.8	275.4	134.7	140.7	16.7	8.5	8.2
September r	32.3	18.2	14.1	261.2	129.8	131.4	18.1	13.3	4.8
October r	28.6	15.8	12.8	250.5	126.0	124.5	17.9	12.0	5.9
November r	28.1	17.0	11.1	234.4	117.2	117.2	12.0	7.8	4.2
December r	30.0	16.2	13.8	235.0	121.8	113.2	30.6	21.2	9.4
1976 January r	29.1	16.9	12.2	229.8	109.8	120.0	23.9	4.9	19.0
February r	29.8	15.8	14.0	218.6	104.9	113.7	18.6	10.9	7.7
March r	32.6	17.4	15.2	205.7	98.6	107.1	19.7	11.1	8.6
April p	26.9	16.2	10.7	207.2	97.9	109.3	28.4	15.5	12.9
May p	29.4	15.1	14.3	194.9	94.7	100.2	17.1	11.9	5.2
June p	27.5	16.3	11.2	195.1	98.0	97.1	27.7	19.6	8.1
July	28.0	16.7	11.3	194.8	100.1	94.7	27.7	18.8	8.9
Three monthly totals									
May 1976 to July 1976	84.9	48.1	36.8	194.8	100.1	94.7	72.5	50.3	22.2
February 1976 to April 1976	89.3	49.4	39.9	207.2	97.9	109.3	66.7	37.5	29.2
May 1975 to July 1975	77.7	44.7	33.0	282.3	140.0	142.3	55.0	32.1	22.9
Percentage change latest three months on:									
1 Previous three months	−5	−3	−8	−6	+2	−13	+9	+34	−24
2 A year earlier	+9	+8	+12	−31	−29	−33	+32	+57	−3

p = provisional. r = revised.
* The values for orders outstanding relate to the ends of the periods shown.
Due to rounding, constituent figures may not sum to their respective totals.

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TABLE 2 Metal working machine tools: employment

Thousands

1974	1st quarter	52.9	1975	1st quarter	54.0	1st quarter	49.6
	2nd quarter	53.2		2nd quarter	53.0	April	49.3
	3rd quarter	54.0		3rd quarter	52.2	May	49.5
	4th quarter	54.4		4th quarter p	50.6	June	49.3
						July	49.3

Recent trend for machine tools

The latest statistics available for the months up to July this year showed that the sales, in the last three months, are fairly steady at a level 5 per cent below that of the previous three months. At £85 million, sales in current value terms were 9 per cent higher than the corresponding period a year earlier but a little lower in volume. Export sales were 8 per cent lower than the previous three months but 12 per cent higher than a year earlier. Total sales for these last three months were slightly greater by value than new orders received for the same period, but these orders have maintained an upward trend and it is hoped that this will soon reverse the decline of orders-on-hand, now at the low level of £194 million not seen since 1973.

Total new orders received showed a marked increase; overall, they were 9 per cent higher than the previous three months and 32 per cent higher than the corresponding period in 1975, representing a significant increase in volume terms as well as a marked rise in prices.

The performance of new orders, net of cancellations, received from the home market continue to make up for the disappointing receipt of orders from overseas: new orders at home, at £50 million, were 34 per cent higher than the previous three months and 57 per cent higher than the corresponding period a year earlier; in current value terms, in spite of price increases this can be translated by a marked increase in volume terms. New orders received from abroad were 24 per cent down from the previous three months and 3 per cent lower than a year ago; there are signs though, on a monthly basis, that the level of new orders from abroad is beginning to stabilise. However, the combined input level of new orders is progressing towards that of total deliveries; for while in the last three months to July the level of new orders received was 15 per cent below that of deliveries, it was 25 per cent below three months earlier and 29 per cent a year earlier.

Included in table 2 is a specially prepared estimate of the employment of the industry covered by this article; ie part of MLH 332 concerned primarily with metal cutting and metal forming machine tools and parts, excluding welding equipment. The estimate for July shows that at 49.3 thousand the downward trend has now steadied out after the recent recession. It has shown very little change over the past four months, March to July 1976.

Inquiries on the published series should be addressed to the Department of Industry, Mechanical Engineering Statistics, Room 610, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AG, tel: 01-212 0083.

Selective assistance under Section 8 of the Industry Act 1972

The table shows offers of £5,000 or more made since 1 January 1976 under the Ferrous Foundry Scheme against which a first payment to the company concerned was made in the period 1 June to 30 September 1976.

Region and company	Amount of assistance committed (£)
East and West Midlands:	
John Harper and Co Ltd	1,293,000
Richards Foundries Ltd	12,250
Castings Ltd	280,000
James Maude and Co Ltd	20,790
Robert Hyde and Son Ltd	7,025
Steel and Garland Ltd	23,255
Branford Bros Ltd	10,875
Yorkshire and Humberside:	
Staveley Industries Ltd	171,000
The Davy Roll Co Ltd	331,000
Guest and Chrimes Ltd	281,000
Wombwell Foundry and Eng Ltd	77,250
North West:	
Midland Rollmakers Ltd	387,000
Scotland:	
Bertram's Ltd	58,890
East:	
Langley Alloys Ltd	47,350

Engineering sales and orders (SIC VII, VIII and IX) up to July

Provisional trend estimates and seasonally adjusted volume index numbers of engineering sales and orders to July, presented below, suggest a check in the recovery of sales, the increase in export sales only just serving to offset the slight fall in home sales. The improved inflow of net new orders was similarly maintained by orders from abroad, as domestic new orders suffered a decline. The level of sales remained above the inflow of new orders, so both home and export order books continued to shorten.

Sales to the home market failed to maintain the slight recovery experienced earlier this year, and in fact fell slightly in the three months to July. Information recently received on home net new orders indicates that the inflow of new home contracts lapsed in the second quarter of this year, following an upturn from the last quarter of 1975, and fell by 3 per cent between April and July. As the inflow of orders fell further below the level of home sales, home orders-on-hand decreased by 4½ per cent during this period.

In contrast to the home market, export sales continued to show a slight improvement, the increase in trend being 1 per cent between April and July. Export new orders rose sharply in July for the third consecutive month, the increase over the April level being 22½ per cent. Large overseas contracts gained by some electrical engineering firms were the most significant factors in this increase. This improvement in new orders from abroad was not sufficient to stabilise the level of export orders-on-hand, which fell by 1½ per cent in the three months to July, but it reduced the rate of decline markedly.

The opposing trends in home and export markets resulted in a position of no change in total sales, and an increase of 5½ per cent in total new orders between April and July. However, the level of sales remained above the inflow of new orders, so order books fell by 3½ per cent during the same period.

The revised figures published in this table are based on the Monthly Engineering Enquiry relating to July 1976. The response rate of 82 per cent to the inquiry for July is judged sufficient to justify publication of provisional indices for this month. Taking into account late returns now received for April, May and June response rates for these months were 92, 90 and 88 per cent respectively.

When using the volume index numbers and trends shown in the accompanying table, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the values of engineering sales and orders to constant prices become more acute. Because of these difficulties the relative accuracy of the volume estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent months and studies are currently in hand to ascertain the possible directions and magnitudes of any biasses, which may lead to revisions in due course.

An expanded commentary, together with additional tables, is given in Business Monitor PM 33–36, Engineering (volume indices of sales and orders), obtainable from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, post free for a subscription of £2.22 per annum. Separate commentaries and volume indices are given for sales, orders-on-hand and net new orders for total, home and export markets, for mechanical, instrument and electrical engineering (SIC Orders VII, VIII and IX respectively).

Inquiries: 01-212 6044.

Index numbers for the combined engineering industries (SIC orders VII, VIII and IX) (a)

Volume index numbers: Orders-on-hand. December 1970 unadjusted = 100 Net new orders and sales, 1970 average monthly sales = 100

	Total			Home			Export		
	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	Net new orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	Net new orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	Net new orders	Sales
Trend estimates									
1974 July	137	110	113	132	108	112	147	114	116
August	136	107	113	131	106	112	146	108	117
September	134	103	113	129	103	112	144	104	117
October	133	100	113	128	99	111	142	101	118
November	130	96	113	125	95	111	140	99	118
December	128	93	113	123	92	111	137	96	118
1975 January	125	92	113	120	91	110	135	95	118
February	122	91	112	117	90	110	132	94	117
March	119	92	111	114	90	109	129	95	117
April	117	92	110	112	90	107	127	97	116
May	115	92	109	109	89	106	125	100	116
June	112	92	108	107	88	104	123	102	115
July	110	91	107	105	86	104	122	103	115
August	108	90	106	102	85	103	120	101	114
September	106	88	105	99	84	102	118	98	113
October	103	87	104	96	83	101	116	96	112
November	101	86	103	94	83	100	114	94	112
December	99	87	103	92	84	99	112	93	112
1976 January	97	88	103	90	85	98	109	93	113
February	95	90	103	89	88	98	107	95	115
March	93	92	104	87	90	99	105	99	116
April	92	95	105	86	90	100	104	104	117
May	91	96	105	85	90	100	103	112	118
June	90	98	105	83	89	100	102	119	118
July	89	100	105	82	88	99	102	128	118
Percentage change (b) April-July 1976	−3.5	5.5	—	−4.5	−3.0	−0.5	−1.5	22.5	1.0
Seasonally adjusted									
1969	101	100	97	102	99	99	100	102	91
1970	100	99	100	100	99	100	100	100	100
1971	93	97	101	95	98	101	89	93	102
1972	99	103	101	103	108	105	90	91	92
1973	133	134	113	134	136	117	131	131	102
1974	128	109	111	123	105	111	139	118	113
1975	99	90	108	91	87	105	113	98	115
1974 1st quarter	136	117	108	133	109	110	142	135	105
2nd quarter	138	117	112	133	112	111	148	128	113
3rd quarter	134	106	114	130	106	112	144	105	117
4th quarter	128	97	112	123	94	110	139	104	117
1975 1st quarter	119	89	112	114	89	110	128	89	118
2nd quarter	113	95	109	108	92	106	124	102	115
3rd quarter	106	90	107	100	86	103	118	101	114
4th quarter	99	85	103	91	80	100	113	98	112
1976 1st quarter	94	91	103	88	90	98	106	94	115
2nd quarter	89	95	106	83	90	101	101	106	118
1975 January	124	86	114	119	85	112	135	88	119
February	122	97	113	117	98	111	132	95	118
March	119	85	110	114	85	108	128	85	117
April	116	94	112	111	94	111	126	95	115
May	115	100	107	110	94	104	126	114	115
June	113	90	106	108	86	103	124	98	115
July	109	84	109	104	77	105	121	99	120
August	108	93	102	102	84	99	121	115	110
September	106	94	109	100	96	107	118	88	113
October	103	84	107	96	79	104	116	96	112
November	101	85	103	94	83	98	113	89	114
December	99	87	100	91	77	96	113	110	110
1976 January	96	81	102	89	83	98	109	76	113
February	95	96	101	89	95	96	107	98	113
March	94	96	105	88	91	100	106	109	119
April	92	92	108	86	91	103	103	96	119
May	90	93	107	84	89	102	101	102	119
June	89	99	103	83	91	98	101	119	116
July	89	102	103	81	84	97	105	145	118
Feb.-April 76 (av.)	92	95	105	86	92	100	103	101	117
May-July 76 (av.)	89	98	104	81	88	99	105	122	118
Percentage change (b)	−3.0	3.0	—	−5.5	−5.0	−0.5	1.5	21.0	1.0

(a) All figures are provisional.

(b) For orders on hand, the percentage changes compare the level at the end of the latest period shown with the corresponding level for the earlier period. The percentage changes have been based on the unrounded values and are given to the nearest half percentage point.

Release dates of economic statistics to be published in November

This notice is issued by the Central Statistical Office on behalf of the Government Statistical Service and other organisations as a guide to the dates of publication of major economic series in November. The dates are those which departments, or other organisations concerned, are aiming at, and would normally expect to meet. Exceptionally, there may be a delay resulting from unavoidable statistical problems of collection and compilation. Further inquiries about individual series should be addressed to the source named in the table.

Publication date	Series	Method of release	Source
November			
2 Tues	CBI Industrial Trends Survey (Oct)	PN	CBI
	United Kingdom official reserves (Oct)	PN	HM Treasury
	Capital issues and redemptions (during the month of October)	PN	Bank of England
3 Wed	Building society house prices and mortgage advances (3rd qtr)	PN	Department of the Environment
8 Mon	Hire purchase and other instalment credit business (Sept)	PN	Department of Industry
	Retail sales (Sept-final)	PN	Department of Industry
	Wholesale price index numbers (Oct)	PN	Department of Industry
9 Tues	Provisional figures of vehicle production and estimates of new car registrations (Oct)	PN	Department of Industry
	Central Government financial transactions (including borrowing requirement) (Oct)	PN	HM Treasury
10 Wed	UK banks' eligible liabilities, reserve assets, reserve ratios and special deposits (mid Oct)	PN	Bank of England
	London clearing banks' monthly statement (mid Oct)	PN	CLCB
11 Thurs	Finished steel consumption and stock changes (3rd qtr-prov)	PN	Department of Industry
	Index of industrial production (Sept)	PN	CSO
12 Fri	Usable steel production (Oct)	PN	BSC/BISPA
	Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures (Oct)	PN	Department of Trade/ CSO
	Building Societies receipts and loans (Oct)	PN	BSA
	Retail prices index (Oct)	PN	Department of Employment
15 Mon	Retail sales (Oct-prov)	PN	Department of Industry
	Turnover of the motor trades (3rd qtr)	PN	Department of Industry
	Turnover of the catering trades (Sept)	PN	Department of Industry
17 Wed	Consumers' expenditure (3rd qtr-2nd prelim estimate)	PN	CSO
	Preliminary estimate of gross domestic product based on output data (3rd qtr)	PN	CSO
	Basic rates of wages and normal weekly hours (end-Oct)	PN	Department of Employment
	Monthly index of average earnings (Sept)		
18 Thurs	Five per cent sample survey of building society mortgages completed (3rd qtr)	PN	Department of the Environment
19 Fri	Sales and orders in the engineering industries (Aug)	Trade and Industry	Department of Industry
	Manufacturing industries capital expenditure by regions (1st qtr)		
21 Sun	National Savings monthly progress report (Oct)	PN	National Savings Committee
22 Mon	UK banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock (mid-Oct)	PN	Bank of England
	London dollar and sterling certificates of deposit (mid-Oct)	PN	Bank of England
	Construction – new orders (Sept)	PN	Department of the Environment
23 Tues	New vehicle registrations (Oct)	PN	Department of Transport
	Unemployment (Nov-prov)	PN	Department of Employment
	Unfilled vacancies (Nov-prov)		
25 Thurs	Car and commercial vehicle production (Oct - final)	PN	Department of Industry
	Capital expenditure by the manufacturing, distributive and service industries (3rd qtr - prov)	PN	Department of Industry
	Manufacturers and distributors' stocks (3rd qtr-prov)	PN	Department of Industry
	Energy Trends	PN	Department of Energy
30 Tues	Bricks and cement production (Oct)	PN	Department of the Environment
	Housing starts and completions (Oct-prov)	PN	Department of the Environment
	House renovation grants approved (Oct-prov)		

General inquiries: Central Statistical Office, Great George St., London, SW1P 3AQ, tel. 01-233 5489.

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trends in invisible transactions	This week
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By regions	13 Aug. 1976
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new registrations:	
Gt. Britain (M)	17 Sept. 1976
N. Ireland (M)	15 Oct. 1976
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(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
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Scotland	6 Aug. 1976
Wales	8 Oct. 1976
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production: quarterly analysis (Q)	3 Sept. 1976
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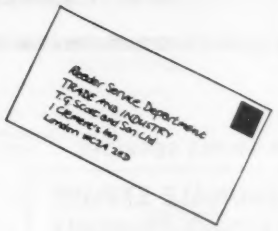

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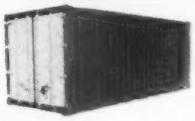

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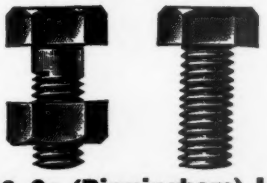

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